

SIX SEASONS

Environment and Sustainability News from Shire of Mundaring

2025 Environmental Art Project



Banners on display at the Nichol Street Rose Garden in Mundaring

We cannot turn back time, but we can grow forests, revive water sources, and bring back soils. We are the generation that can make peace with the land.

(World Environment Day)

The creativity of children across the eastern region is once again celebrated as largescale banners by local primary school students enliven the Mundaring town centre. The banners depict the winning artworks created as part of the annual Environmental Art Project. The Environmental Art Project is an annual initiative run by Mundaring Arts Centre Inc. in partnership with the Shire of Mundaring and City of Swan to encourage primary school and homeschool students to explore environmental issues, whilst developing their own positive message about protecting local ecosystems.

In 2025, 800 students from 19 schools from across Shire of Mundaring and City of Swan participated. This year's theme, '**Land For Wildlife**' invited students to investigate how a healthy ecosystem works together to nourish soils, plants and wildlife to create unique artworks promoting what we can all do in our local area to make a difference.

All student artworks are available to view online at [Environmental Art Project](https://www.enviroartproject.com.au) (<https://www.enviroartproject.com.au>). The banners will be on display in the Nichol Street rose gardens and in front of the Midland Junction Arts Centre for the community to enjoy until November 2026.



Dec 2025 • Issue 6

IN THIS EDITION

Environmental Art Award

Waste News

Stay Cool, Save Energy

Meet Ian Barlow

Landcare Checklist - Birak

Community News - TurtleSat

What's On



The Nuytsia floribunda, or WA Christmas Tree, holds deep significance for Noongar people at this time of year, as its brilliant orange blooms signal Kambarang giving way to Birak and remind communities of ancestral connections, spiritual guardianship, and the importance of respecting this powerful, sacred tree.



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.

Stay Cool, Save Energy

As we prepare for Summer, here are some simple tips to keep cool and keep your energy bills down.

Keep the heat out

Close blinds and curtains, especially on north and west-facing windows. Shade windows with awnings or vines and make sure your home is well insulated and draught-proof.

Reduce your space

Close doors to unused rooms and seal gaps around windows and doors to keep cool air in.

Plan your day

Avoid outdoor activities during the hottest part of the day. Cook outside or use appliances that don't heat up your home. In the evening, open windows to let in cooler air.

Cool yourself first

Stay hydrated, wear light cotton clothing, and take cool showers. A splash of water on your neck or a damp towel with ice can make a big difference.

Use a fan

Fans use far less energy than air conditioners. If you need to use an air-conditioner, set it between 24–27°C. Raising the temperature by just 1°C can cut running costs by about 10%.

Switch your lightbulbs

Incandescent and halogen bulbs generate heat. Swap them for energy-saving LEDs to keep your home cooler and reduce energy costs.

Waste News: X-ray Recycling

The Shire of Mundaring has added X-rays to its range of free recycling items at our Community Recycling Centres for residents.

X-rays need a specialist recycling process and cannot be recycled through kerbside recycling bin collection. X-rays are harmful to the environment if disposed of incorrectly. The recycling process enables silver to be extracted, which can then be reused for things such as silver solder, jewellery, the silver plating of utensils, electrical components and film manufacture.

Drop these off for free at the Coppin Road or Matheison Road Community Recycling Centres. Don't forget your CRC entry pass and ID.



Bin collection over Festive Season

Household waste increases by almost one-third during Christmas and New Year. GREAT sorts avoid waste where possible and recycle and earth cycle (compost bins, worm farms, FOGO bin) to reduce general waste.

This year the Shire is trialling an additional general waste collection for Christmas and New Year. For the two weeks from Monday 22 December to Saturday 3 January put your **general waste bin** out both weeks on your bin day.

There are also changes to bin days for public holidays.

PUBLIC HOLIDAY COLLECTIONS	IF YOUR NORMAL BIN DAY IS	PUT YOUR BIN OUT ON
Bins are not collected on Christmas Day, New Year's Day and Good Friday. Refer to this table for alternative collection days.	Thurs 25 December 2025	Fri 26 December 2025
	Fri 26 December 2025	Sat 27 December 2025
	Thurs 1 January 2026	Fri 2 January 2026
	Fri 2 January 2026	Sat 3 January 2026
	Fri 3 April 2026	Sat 4 April 2026



Ian Barlow: The "Crazy Bushman" with a Heart for Oblong Turtles



Landcare Checklist for Birak

🔥 1. Fire Preparedness & Fuel Management

Birak is traditionally a time of controlled burning for Noongar people.

Reduce fine fuel loads: rake leaves and fallen bark away from structures, clear gutters, and prune lower branches.

Maintain firebreaks to the Shire's requirements; check they are accessible and trafficable.

Remove dead vegetation around sheds, fences and access tracks.

Check firefighting equipment (pumps, hoses, generators) and ensure everything starts and runs reliably.

Prepare a bushfire plan and share it with family or tenants.

💧 2. Water Management & Plant Survival

With low rainfall and rising heat.

Deep-water young natives early in the morning, no more than once per week to encourage deep roots.

Apply thick mulch around revegetation plantings to reduce evaporation.

Check driplines and irrigation for leaks ahead of extreme heat days.

Consider temporary shade structures for vulnerable juvenile trees.

🌿 3. Summer Weed Control (Target Before Seed Set)

Many invasive annuals and some perennials are vulnerable in early Birak.

Treat woody weeds (watsonia, lantana, olives, weedy wattles) via cut-and-paint or basal bark applications.

Spray early-summer germinating weeds such as veldt grass and arum lily before they mature.

Check paths, firebreaks, and driveway edges for regrowth after late winter rains.

Note: Always ensure herbicides are applied early in the day before high winds.

🐦 4. Habitat Care for Wildlife

Birak is a time of fledglings and young animals. Ensure water sources (bird baths, ground dishes) are clean and shaded.

Check fences for entanglement hazards; wildlife such as kangaroos and quenda are more active seeking water.

Add logs and rock piles for reptiles and small mammals.



If you've spent any time around the bush reserves and waterways of our region, you may already know Ian Barlow—affectionately known as “the crazy bushman” for his boundless enthusiasm, muddy boots, and habit of disappearing into the scrub with a bucket, a camera, or some ingenious homemade wildlife gadget. But behind the nickname sits a passionate, dedicated advocate for one of Western Australia's most unique creatures: the oblong turtle.

For Ian, the oblong turtle—also known as the southwestern snake-necked turtle—is more than just a species of interest. It's a lifelong fascination. He has spent countless hours monitoring their movements, rescuing stranded individuals from drying wetlands, and teaching community members how they can help protect these slow-moving but remarkably tough animals. His stories often begin with, “I was just out for a quick walk...” and somehow end with a turtle in need of relocation, a freshly repaired nesting site, or a new mystery in turtle behaviour to follow up on.

Ian's grassroots approach to conservation has inspired many locals. From talking with school groups to guiding community clean-ups around turtle habitat, he brings infectious energy and a deep respect for the natural world. His message is simple: small actions make a big difference—and when it comes to the oblong turtle, every safe crossing, clean waterway, and protected nesting area counts.

So the next time you spot Ian trekking through the bush with his trademark grin, chances are he's on another mission to help his favourite reptile. And thanks to his passion, many more people now understand and appreciate this quirky, long-necked icon of our region.

We are hoping to invite Ian to run an event at our beloved Lake Leschenaultia to check out our beautiful oblong turtle population. Watch this space!



Chelodina Oblonga - photo courtesy of Ian Barlow



Lake Leschenaultia

Citizen Science Opportunity



Have you heard of the TURTLESAT app?

TurtleSAT, is a mobile phone application and web resource, offers a user-friendly interface for individuals to actively engage in turtle conservation.

With human activity and pest animals posing threats to freshwater turtles, TurtleSAT serves as a platform for visualising these threats in local communities and nationwide.

Thank you to those of you that have already used TurtleSAT to enter in sightings of turtles in your local area!

Ian Barlow is also keen for your sightings and is happy for residents to email him on thecrazybushman@outlook.com



The **Wildcare Helpline** provides a service for the public who find sick or injured native wildlife and are seeking advice on where to find care for the animal.

The Helpline is owned by the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions and is managed and operated by WA Wildlife.

Volunteer operators answer incoming calls and connect members of the public with their nearest licensed wildlife rehabilitator. In addition, volunteer operators provide advice to the public.



Six Seasons has been proudly 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

What's On

14

Engage with nature and sustainability in December and the New Year!

Eastern Regional Landcare Community Volunteer Event

Join us for a combined Eastern Regional Landcare 'Volunteer Thank You Morning Tea' on

Sunday the 7th of December at the Boya Library from 10am-12pm.

Feel free to get in touch with us if you are interested in getting involved in caring for a natural space in your area! Our Community Landcare Officer would be thrilled to hear from you! Email:

environment@mundaring.wa.gov.au



Thank you to everyone who took part in this year's **Spring Quenda Count**—your time, enthusiasm, and observations have been invaluable in helping us better understand and protect our local quenda populations. We're thrilled with the level of community support and participation.

The **10 habitat pod prize winners** will be announced soon, so stay tuned!

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 2026.

