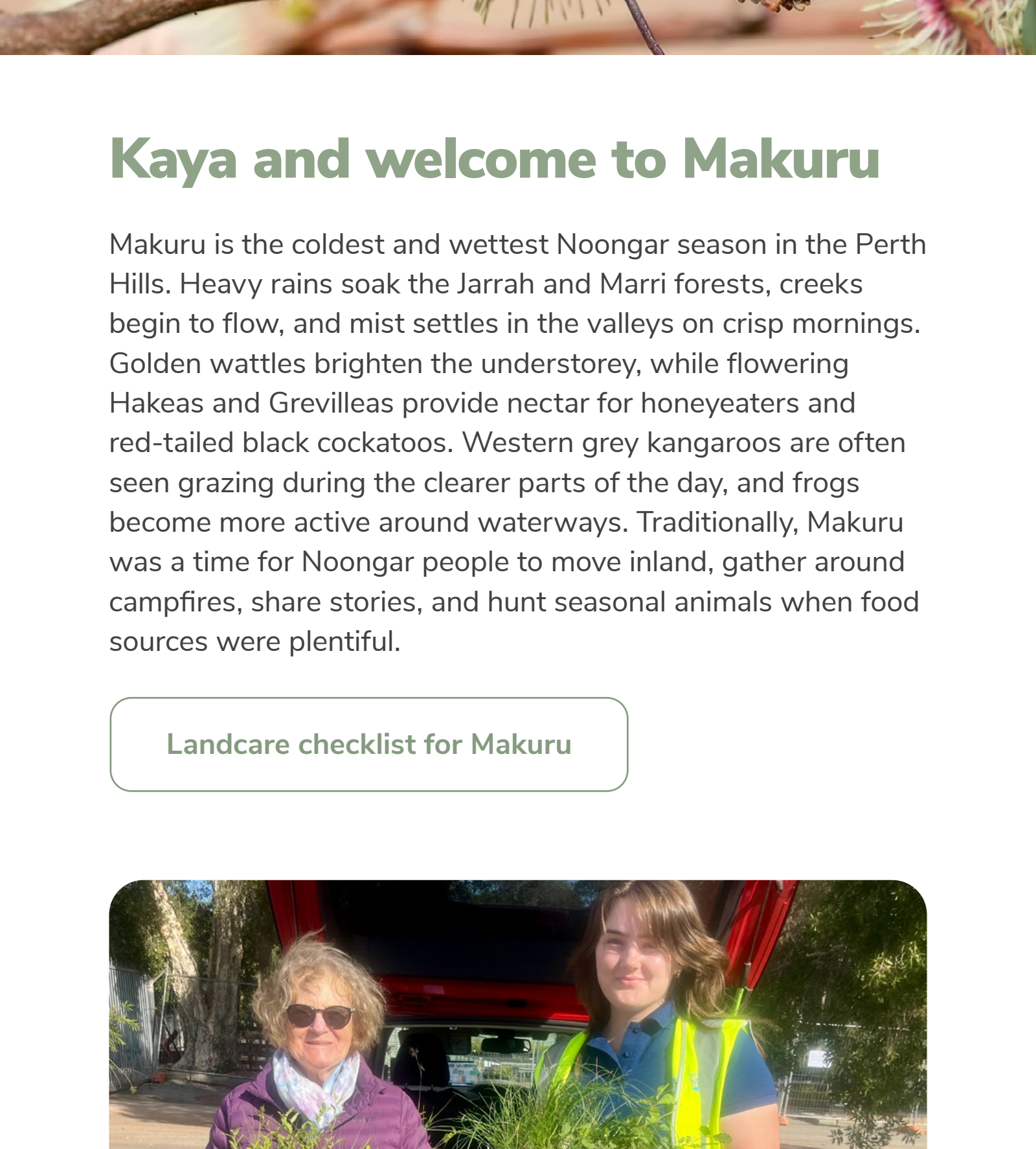




Six Seasons

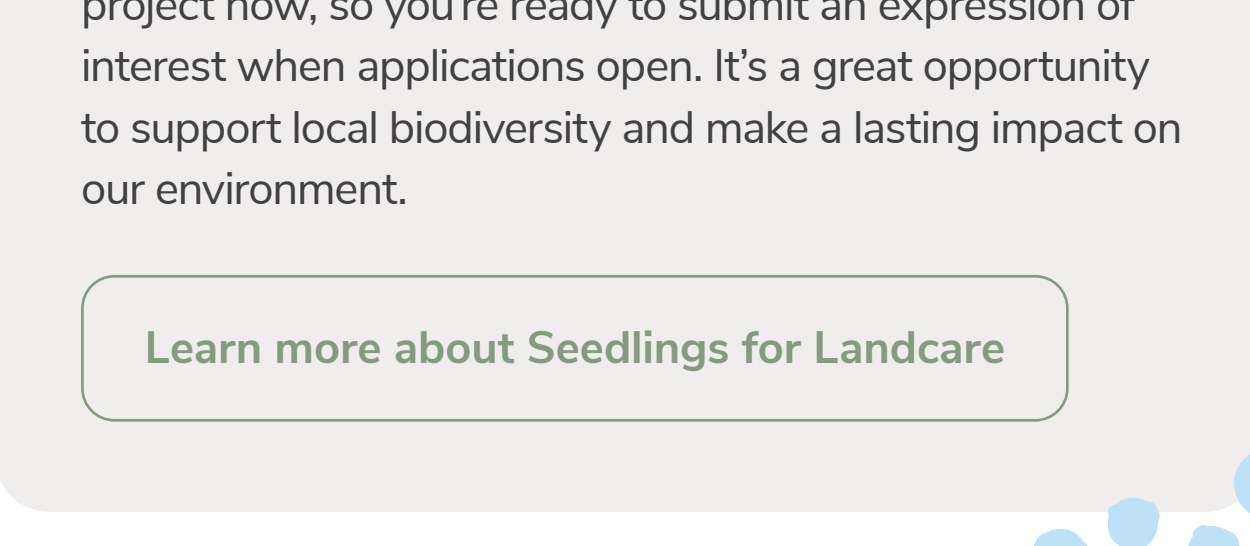
Environment and Sustainability



Kaya and welcome to Makuru

Makuru is the coldest and wettest Noongar season in the Perth Hills. Heavy rains soak the Jarrah and Marri forests, creeks begin to flow, and mist settles in the valleys on crisp mornings. Golden wattles brighten the understorey, while flowering Hakeas and Greivillas provide nectar for honeyeaters and red-tailed black cockatoos. Western grey kangaroos are often seen grazing during the clearer parts of the day, and frogs become more active around waterways. Traditionally, Makuru was a time for Noongar people to move inland, gather around campfires, share stories, and hunt seasonal animals when food sources were plentiful.

[Landcare checklist for Makuru](#)



Thousands of native seedlings find new homes in the Hills

Hundreds of residents are now rolling up their sleeves to plant thousands of native seedlings as part of the Shire of Mundaring's popular Seedlings for Landcare Program.

Held on 23 and 24 May, more than 320 residents and groups collected around 18,000 native seedlings from the Shire. The program supports local landowners, schools and community groups to boost biodiversity and environmental health. By providing eligible participants with free native plants suited to their area, Seedlings for Landcare helps restore bushland, creek lines and wildlife corridors, improving habitat for local fauna. The strong turnout reflects a growing commitment to land stewardship within the Shire.

Makuru is an ideal time of year to plant. If you picked up seedlings, the most important next step is to get them in the ground to give them the best start in Makuru conditions.

The next round of Seedlings for Landcare applications open in July 2026. With limited seedlings available and eligibility criteria in place, residents are encouraged to plan ahead by starting to map out next year's planting project now, so you're ready to submit an expression of interest when applications open. It's a great opportunity to support local biodiversity and make a lasting impact on our environment.

[Learn more about Seedlings for Landcare](#)



Smart burn piles Safer practices for local wildlife

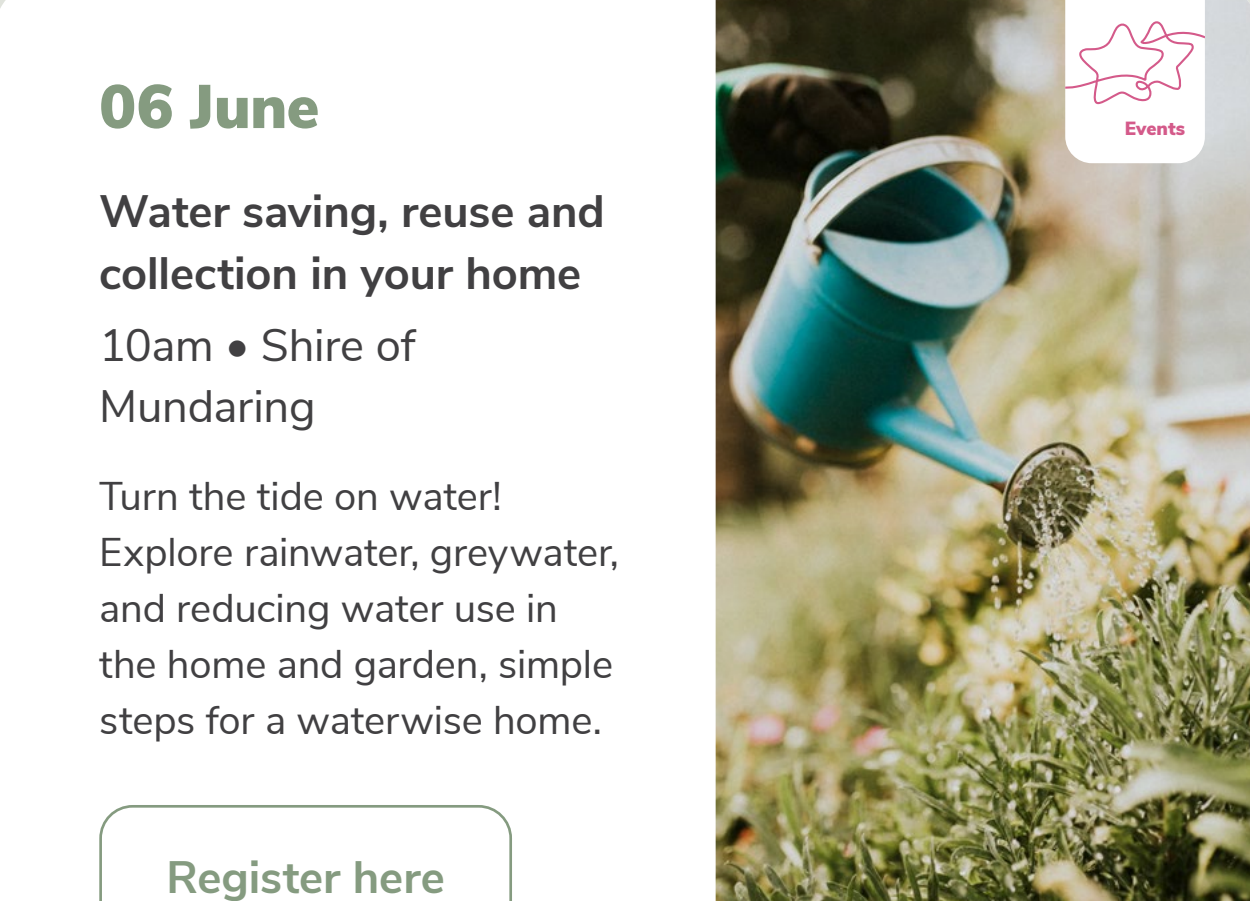
Creating burn piles is a practical way to manage green waste in rural and semi-rural parts of the Perth Hills, but without care they can unintentionally harm wildlife such as quendas, echidnas and reptiles that shelter in leaf litter and branches.

The safest approach is to build and burn on the same day, preventing animals from settling in. If a pile has been sitting, rake it apart just before burning or gently disturb it with a long tool to encourage wildlife to move out. For larger or older piles, use a staged "small fire" approach, burning material gradually from one edge. Keep piles within recommended size limits (1m²) and maintain a cleared three metre buffer.

Before lighting, check the conditions. Do not burn on high or above fire danger days, avoid wind speeds over 15 km/h, notify neighbours, ensure sufficient water is readily available and wear protective clothing.

The unrestricted burning period begins 1 June, but due to a dry summer the deeper ground layers may still be dry and hold heat. Burns can therefore smoulder and escape unexpectedly and rain does not always make it safe so the burn requires constant supervision. Ensure you fully extinguish the pile and continue checking the area for heat or smoke after the burn. If wildlife is injured, call the Wildcare Helpline on 9474 9055.

Where possible, consider alternatives such as mulching, green waste or FOGO bins, or creating habitat piles in safe areas.



Flora in focus Wildlife friendly hakeas

Hakeas are an exceptional choice for gardens in the Shire, combining striking beauty with real ecological impact. These hardy Western Australian natives thrive in our local soils and dry climate, making them a waterwise, low-maintenance option for Perth Hills properties. Their nectar-rich flowers draw in honeyeaters, bees and other pollinators, while dense, often prickly foliage provides vital refuge for small birds and reptiles.

Importantly, hakeas also play a role in supporting threatened fauna. They produce fruit quickly and Black Cockatoos feed on their woody seed pods, making them a practical way for residents to contribute to conservation at home in a relatively short period of time.

Several species perform particularly well in the Hills, including *Hakea undulata* (Wavy-leaved Hakea), *Hakea laurina* (Pincushion Hakea) and *Hakea petiolaris* (Sea-urchin Hakea). Together, these resilient plants help create vibrant, biodiverse, and climate-adapted gardens that reflect and support the unique character of the Hills landscape.

[Learn more about backyard biodiversity](#)



Fauna in focus Feral foxes

As Makuru begins across Perth Hills, foxes enter their annual breeding cycle. Foxes breed only once each year, with mating occurring through winter and pups born around seven weeks later. During this period, adult foxes increase their hunting activity to meet the energy demands of breeding and denning.

Many residents become aware of this seasonal change through sound. Fox mating calls are commonly heard in the winter nights and can include high pitched yelps or raspy barking noises which are a normal part of courtship and territorial behaviour.

This increased activity places added pressure on native wildlife, particularly ground nesting birds, small mammals and reptiles, which are already more vulnerable during colder months. The way our gardens and bushland edges are structured can make a real difference. Simple habitat features such as hollow logs, retained leaf litter, rock features and fallen branches provide shelter and hiding places. Planting dense native shrubs also helps break up open spaces, giving native wildlife a better chance of avoiding a fox on the hunt.

For residents interested in managing fox activity on their properties, the PestSmart website and the FeralScan app offer reliable information, best practice guidance and tools for reporting sightings.

[Explore PestSmart resources](#)

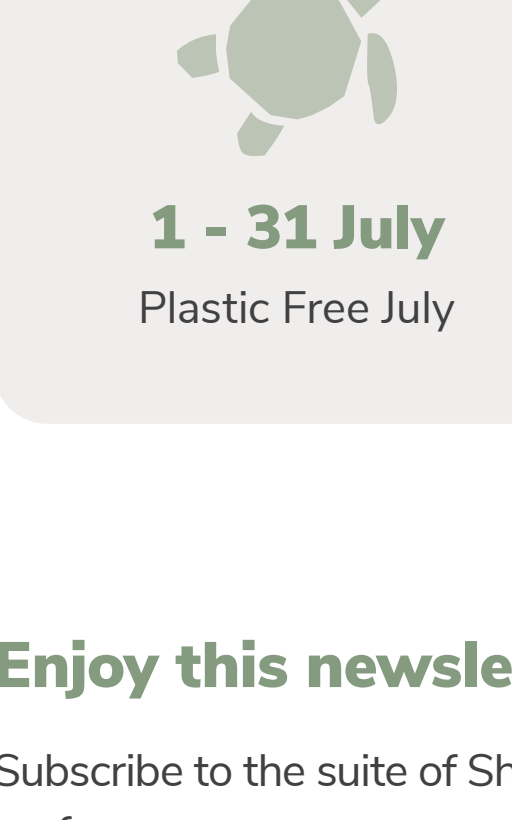
Upcoming Shire Workshops and Events

06 June Water saving, reuse and collection in your home

10am • Shire of Mundaring

Turn the tide on water! Explore rainwater, greywater, and reducing water use in the home and garden, simple steps for a waterwise home.

[Register here](#)



06 June Firewise Gardening in WA

10am • Mundaring Firefighters School - Bentley St, Stoneville

Learn how to reduce bushfire risk with local Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade members, featuring DFES's new Firewise Gardening guide.

[Register here](#)

20 June Winter Warmers: Induction Cooking Workshop

10am • Shire of Mundaring

Cook up cozy winter magic! Learn induction cooking with hearty seasonal produce & delicious plant-based options in this hands-on workshop.

[Register here](#)



04 July Living Lighter & DIY Workshop

12pm • Shire of Mundaring

Learn easy ways to lessen your environmental impact and make simple DIY products from everyday kitchen ingredients.

[Register here](#)

22 July Frogs and their Bogs at Lake Leschenaultia

4pm • Lake Leschenaultia

Take a twilight frog-spotting stroll around Lake Leschenaultia and learn how to build your own froggy paradise at home!

[Register here](#)

25 July Modern Cloth Nappy Workshop

10am • Shire of Mundaring

Discover modern cloth nappies! Learn how to use, care for, and save money while reducing waste at our hands-on workshop.

[Register here](#)

25 July Powering Up Our Communities: The Future is Electric

1pm • Shire of Mundaring

Learn about practical home energy upgrades like solar, batteries, heat pumps and induction cooking with Electrify Everything WA.

[Register here](#)

What's on in the community

05 June

World Environment Day

15 - 20 June

Waste & Recycling Workers Week

1 - 31 July

Plastic Free July

26 July

National Tree Day

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