

MISSING QUOKKA SIGHTED AT THE RRRC

Having recently been awarded the title of the 'happiest animal in the world' you wouldn't typically expect to see a Quokka in Canning Vale. Earlier in the month that's exactly what happened, when one daring quokka was sighted at the Regional Resource Recovery Centre. It's believed the small marsupial made its way to the Materials Recovery Facility in the recyclables collected and transported by barge from Rottnest Island.

The Quokka was first sighted by an employee new to Perth who took a photo. The employee showed the photo to another staff member, who quickly identified the animal as a Quokka and reported the sighting to the Rottnest Island Authority.

Despite several search efforts and plenty of news coverage, the quokka is unfortunately still missing. The Department of Parks and Wildlife is urging people in Canning Vale and surrounding suburbs to keep an eye out and report any sightings to the **Department of Parks and Wildlife - Wildcare Helpline on 9474 9055**.



UPCOMING EVENTS

World Wetlands Day commemorates the signing of the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance on February 2nd 1971.

Wetlands are essential for human health and prosperity. They provide us with fresh water, ensure our food supply, sustain biodiversity, store carbon dioxide and reduce the impact of extreme events such as floods, droughts and cyclones. They are also a major source of employment globally.

You can catch the Recycle Right team at the upcoming 13th annual WA Wetland Management Conference held on Thursday 2 February 2016 at the Cockburn Wetlands Education Centre. To find out more about how you can get involved, visit cockburnwetlands.org.au/world-wetlands-day/



In 2016, more than half a million volunteers removed more than 15,000 tonnes of waste from over 7,000 sites across Australia.

Register your school or business to be a participant in Clean Up Australia Day or find a site to volunteer at by visiting cleanupaustriaday.org.au/

Clean Up Australia Day – Sunday, 5 March 2017

Business Clean Up Day – Tuesday, 28 February 2017

Schools Clean Up Day – Friday, 3 March 2017



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UPCOMING COMMUNITY TOURS

Our next community tour is scheduled for Saturday 4th of February at 1pm. See first-hand the machinery that sorts your co-mingled recycling and discover some of the alternatives to landfilling.

Bookings are essential. If you'd like to organise a visit to find out what happens to your waste, please call Emma on **9256 9528** or via email tours@smrc.com.au



Take a load off

It's that time of year when the kerbside starts to look more like a jungle as people place their green waste out for kerbside collection.

If you've got too much for your next green waste collection, you can always deliver to the RRRC's Green Waste Facility. With competitive gate fees, central location, and open Monday through Sunday 8am to 4pm (please arrive 15 minutes prior to closing to avoid disappointment), you can help reduce the amount of waste going to landfill and do your bit for the environment.

The following items can be delivered:

- Tree loppings and shrub prunings up to 1.5 metres in length and 350mm in diameter

- Palms (max cut lengths 300mm)
- Bags or boxes of leaves or grass clippings (bags and boxes must be taken away after delivery)

The following items cannot be processed:

- Weeds and root materials
- Sand and soil materials
- Dug out lawn
- General rubbish
- Junk or white goods (these will only be collected during the annual junk verge collections)

You can even watch a virtual tour to find out what happens to your green waste after you've dropped it off or it's been picked up from the verge. For more information, visit recycleright.wa.gov.au/verge-collection/green-waste-delivery/.





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Problem Waste



Christmas Trees

You may remember in the lead up to Christmas we mentioned that over the Christmas period, many items end up being disposed of incorrectly. Unfortunately, even with all our efforts we still received many decorative Christmas items that had been disposed of incorrectly and one of the more problematic items was Christmas trees.

As a general reminder, items such as Christmas trees made from real or synthetic materials should never be placed into your Recycling Bin.

Synthetic Christmas trees that can no longer be used should be stored until your next junk verge collection and then placed on the verge for collection.

Small real Christmas trees can be chopped up and placed in the green topped bin. Alternatively, they can be taken to the RRRC Green Waste Facility in Canning Vale or put on the verge at the time of your green waste collection.



The next generation of engineers takes over the RRRC

Over the January School holidays, the Recycle Right education centre hosted budding engineers as they built Lego models of rubbish collection vehicles. Thanks to a partnership between Scitech, Young Engineers Perth and the SMRC, children and their parents discovered what happens to their recyclables after it is picked up by the trucks, before they used their collaboration skills to build motorised Lego vehicles.

Rubbish, Rubbish, Rubbish

Rubbish volumes increase by about 30% at Christmas. Most is made up of all the packaging, wrapping paper, plastic and Styrofoam that go hand in hand with consumer gifts. Throw in the food waste that goes along with that and we have a recipe for more toxic landfill waste than our poor planet earth should be expected to take.

We don't have to imagine the difference we could make if we could avoid all that. 1 Million Women (www.1millionwomen.com.au/) have done the numbers on what would happen if we reduced our Christmas waste by just 1 kilogram per person. "If a million people did that, we could save approximately 10 billion litres of water waste (that's 4000 Olympic swimming pools), prevent 8 million kgs of carbon dioxide pollution (growing a forest of approx. 45,000 trees) ... and we would collectively save millions of dollars!"

While we are on the subject of trees – why not make your own Christmas tree creation from sticks in the garden!





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Would you like to join
**The Waste Recycling
Education Network?**



**If you are interested
in waste and
sustainability,
educating the
community and making
a difference, the Waste
Recycling Education
Network needs you!**

All it takes is a few hours
of your time to attend a
meeting and assist with a
community waste education
project. Everyone is welcome
to join.

The group meet on a
Thursday every two months
and will be involved in some
exciting projects in the
community in 2017. If you
have any questions or would
like to talk about joining, you
can contact Taryn Davis at the
SMRC on **9329 2700** or email
tdavis@smrc.com.au



Wasteless Pantry – changing the world, one pantry at a time.

**Wasteless Pantry is all about helping you to live a fuller, yet
less wasteful life, by providing you with bulk groceries, as well
as home goods and reusable containers.**

This is mainly achieved by adapting
the way you shop to:

- eliminate disposable packaging,
- source food locally and sustainably,
- be more community minded, and
- only buying what you need.

and cleaning basics. Also offered
are a range of eco friendly reusable
containers, produce bags and
other products that support the
zero waste ideal.

It's truly the most rewarding way to
shop!

Wasteless Pantry is set in the
beautiful Perth Hills in Mundaring.
The store retails bulk groceries and
whole foods, dry and liquid. This
includes coffee beans, loose tea,
nuts, baking goods, gluten free,
organic foods, personal hygiene



Recycle Right App

Why not make Recycling Right
your new year's resolution? We
have a great tool to help you to
put the right thing in the right bin
so we can recover the maximum
amount of waste.



SUPPORTED BY



through the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Account