

Media release

For immediate release

Date: Thursday 6 August

The birds and the bees: Insect hotels at Mabel Talbot Reserve

The City of Subiaco will unveil its first insect hotel, a multifunctional public art sculpture that provides a safe and secure habitat for local fauna, at a special event next week.

The hotel has been engineered by Tim Delany, a student in the faculty of Architecture, Landscape and Visual Arts at The University of Western Australia, who last year received a scholarship from the city to complete the innovative project. The project builds on a successful collaboration with the faculty in 2014, where students investigated, designed and built smaller-scale insect hotel prototypes.

Providing additional habitat for native fauna in the local environment is a key objective in the city's *Wildlife Enhancement Plan 2014–2019*.

Mayor Heather Henderson said: “The city has a strong commitment to environmental conservation and we’re proud to be collaborating with young people and local educational institutions to develop innovative ways to protect and enhance our environment. I’m very excited about the installation of our first insect hotel at Mabel Talbot Reserve.”

Mr Delany used natural materials such as recycled timber from the city’s tree prunings and metal collected from bulk rubbish collections throughout the year to create a cohesive artwork that is suitable for the adjacent wetland and insects at the reserve.

Insect hotels have proven to be successful habitats for plant pollinators, particularly winged insects such as bees. The new structure has been tailor-made to suit the local environment, following testing of different prototypes during summer to determine the most effective design features. Included in the design are materials similar to those found in natural nesting sites and features such as holes and crevices.

The insect hotel is one of several wildlife enhancement projects at Mabel Talbot Reserve including the planting of native garden beds to provide food sources specifically for endangered black cockatoo species, the installation of nest boxes for small birds and microbats, and wetland planting of rushes and sedges.

For more information about the city’s wildlife enhancement strategies download a copy of the *Wildlife Enhancement Plan 2014–2019* at www.subiaco.wa.gov.au

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Notes to the editor

Event details

When: Monday 10 August, 10am
Where: Mabel Talbot Reserve, northern side of lake (near viewing platform)
Parking available at end of Landsdowne Street and Peel Street

Interview and photo opportunities available

Among those in attendance will be City of Subiaco Mayor Heather Henderson and insect hotel sculptor Tim Delany, as well as school students from Jolimont Primary School.