

HARVEY RIVER RESTORATION TASKFORCE INC.



Media release

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Working on Country

The Peel-Harvey Catchment Council (PHCC) and project partners Harvey River Restoration Taskforce (HRRT) have both completed beneficial landcare initiatives with members of the local Noongar communities through a project that has seen local Noongar people undertake seed collection for future vegetation works.

Prior to undertaking seed identification and field collection in the district's Coronation Road Reserve, staff from HRRT and Greening Australia provided two training events for community members on the correct techniques and safety requirements of collecting and storing seed. Harvey River Restoration Taskforce spokesperson Jane Townsend said the seeds collected would feature significantly in their on-ground projects.

"The native seeds collected will be used for future revegetation projects along the Harvey River. The activity also marked a significant step in caring for country for the participants, as it increased their knowledge of the importance of seed collection, seed provenance and taught them the techniques and skills required for seed collection as well as seed cleaning and storage," said Jane Townsend.

The PHCC conducted a Native Seed Collection & Propagation Workshop for six community members, with the results being applied to their Rivers 2 Ramsar project's on-ground works in the Lower Murray River. Chair of the Peel-Harvey Catchment Council Jan Star AM, said the initiative resulted in significant benefits.

"Our Noongar community was engaged and educated in biodiversity values through the identification, seed collection, storage and propagation of our local native species. The workshop and resulting seed collection was highly successful and the seed is now safely stored and will be used for the propagation of future revegetation projects under our Rivers 2 Ramsar project which restores ecological corridors by re-establishing habitats for native fauna," said Jan Star.

Winjan community member, Franklyn Nannup, was a participant at both the Peel-Harvey Catchment Council and the Harvey River Restoration Taskforce's workshops.

"We learnt a great deal from the training, and I think we were able to teach our partners a little bit about our country and its native plants during the events as well," said Franklyn Nannup. "One thing I never really thought about was the fact that the big trees come from such a tiny seed. Working on country has given me an even greater appreciation of what we sometimes take for granted."

Both projects built community members' confidence and skills in collection, storage, propagation and germination techniques of native seed so they are equipped to work on country on future natural resource management projects in the Peel-Harvey region. This project is supported by the Peel-Harvey Catchment Council through funding from the Australian Government and the Harvey River Restoration Taskforce.

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Members of the local Noongar community seed collecting in the Peel-Harvey region.

**LEFT: Baron Kelly, Franklyn Nannup
(with Harvey River Restoration Taskforce)**

**RIGHT: Corey Indich
(with Peel-Harvey Catchment Council)**



Franklyn Nannup and David Venning with Michelle Mullarkey from Harvey River Restoration Taskforce during seed collecting.