



PHCC Working Together
Peel-Harvey Catchment Council

MEDIA RELEASE

Cultural Induction Greet Green Army Teams



Image: Mark Salmon and Kerri-Anne Kearing led a cultural induction for two Green Army teams near Pinjarra.

1 June 2016...The Peel-Harvey Catchment Council recently held a cultural induction for two Green Army teams at a significant indigenous site near Pinjarra. Mark Salmon and Karrie-Anne Kearing of the Murray Districts Aboriginal Association provided an audio tour along the banks and foreshore of the Murray River, the location of the 1834 Battle of Pinjarra/Massacre Site. The tour ended with the team members making an offering a handful of sand into the river to introduce themselves to the Waugal (spirits).

The audio recounts the significance of the river and the site, particularly the battle which took place there between European soldiers and the Bindjareb tribe. Green Army team member Martin Nilsen said the content of the audio tour had impressed him.

"Personally, I found it rather moving because my mum had an adopted Aboriginal brother who died before I was born. I'm from Rockingham, and to learn about something like this so close home is very important to me," he said.

The Green Army teams, made up of young people aged 17 and 24, gain practical training and experience in Natural Resource Management while being paid to work in local environments.

PHCC chairman Andy Gulliver said the Bridging the Gap Green Army teams will work on nearly 100 projects within the Peel-Harvey region from May 2016 to June 2017 comprising wetlands, bushlands, estuaries, foreshores, public land and private property stretching from Serpentine-Jarrahdale down to Harvey. Some Green Army projects will aid efforts to repair the landscape following the recent fires in nearby Waroona. This project is supported by PHCC through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Programme. ENDS

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We acknowledge the Noongar people as Traditional Custodians of this land and pay our respects to all Elders past and present.

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