

Landcare matters

Lake Clifton Sub-catchment



PHCC Working Together
Peel-Harvey Catchment Council

Edition 3
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Lake Clifton Landcare Matters - a bi-monthly update on Natural Resource Management (NRM) in the Lake Clifton subcatchment. NRM refers to the management of natural resources such as land, water, soils, plants and animals. It brings together landuse planning, water management, biodiversity conservation and the future sustainability of industries such as agriculture, mining, tourism, fisheries and forestry.

Seedling Giveaway Cockatube Winner

Landholders expressing an interest in joining *Land for Wildlife* at the 2018 Lake Clifton Seedling Giveaway were included in the draw to snap up the prize of a free Cockatube®, generously donated by Landcare SJ (Serpentine-Jarrahdale).

Lake Clifton locals Phyl and Keith were the lucky winners of the Cockatube and are looking forward to installing it on their property, having spotted a pair of Carnaby's Black Cockatoos visiting the area on a number of occasions.

If you are interested in joining *Land for Wildlife*, please contact Jordon on 6369 8800 to ask about a site assessment



Cockies Tongue



Templetonia retusa, known by the common name cockies tongue, is a medium sized shrub naturally occurring in the coastal areas of south-west of Western Australia as well as South Australia. The shrub generally flowers from Winter to Spring, producing the brightly coloured pea flowers that look somewhat like a cockies tongue. The species many branched structure, reaching up to four metres in height and width, makes it an ideal choice for a number of uses; from providing shelter for small native birds attracted to the shrub by its flowers to acting as a wind break or screen in shelter belts.

Narrow leaf Cottonbush



Cottonbush is spreading throughout the south-west of Western Australia, including the Lake Clifton area. Constant attention and early intervention is the best approach to controlling narrow leaf cottonbush (*Gomphocarpus fruticosus*) infestations and stopping it from getting a hold on your property. Cottonbush is toxic to stock, and will eventually take over paddocks if not controlled.

There are several methods for controlling cottonbush such as hand pulling, chemical spraying, burning, and slashing. Your

approach may depend on the size of the infestation and the tools and equipment you have readily available.

Regular monitoring of your property will help to detect new infestations and allow you to take action before they establish and spread. Just one cottonbush seed pod can contain up to 300 seeds which are easily spread to neighbouring areas on the wind.

Plant material from Cottonbush must remain close to control areas to prevent spreading the weed elsewhere. Burning is an effective way to damage seeds both on and near the soil surface, allow treated or pulled plants to dry out in a pile before either burning or deep burying. Cottonbush has a shallow root system making small infestations easy to remove by hand pulling.

When handling Cottonbush ensure that you wear gloves and appropriate clothing to avoid coming into contact with its milky white sap, as it is toxic and can cause irritations and in some cases illness.

Coming Up...

Keep an eye on our Facebook page and website...www.peel-harvey.org.au



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