



## Wetland Yarns

In the Wetland Yarns Project the PHCC brings together Noongar People, scientists and artists to share their knowledge and stories about wetlands with school students.

The Project was developed and trialled in 2017 by the PHCC and included excursions and school-based activities for over fifty (50) Year Three students from local school, Greenfields Primary. Students visited Lakes Clifton and Mealup and listened to different stories and perspectives from local Noongar Elders and specialist staff from the PHCC Ramsar Program. Their experiences were then captured in a large painting by a local artist and the students.

Wetland Yarns provides a powerful educational experience to inspire students to enjoy and explore the internationally significant Peel-Yalgrope Wetlands that are in their backyard. The Project has been designed by the PHCC so that it can be delivered to other schools and students into the future with continued support from sponsors and teachers.

### FUNDING PROGRAM

State NRM Program: Community Capability Grant  
Australian Government's National Landcare Program (NLP)  
Australian Government's Biodiversity Fund (BF)

### PHCC PROGRAM

*Ramsar Initiative - Supporting people for wetland wise use in the Peel-Harvey*

### PHCC PROJECT

*Wetland Yarns*

### FUNDING

State NRM Office	\$8,200
Australian Government (NLP & BF)	\$7,495
City of Mandurah	\$420

### PARTNERS

- Greenfields Primary School (Leanne Walley)
- Artist (Angela Rossen)
- Noongar Elder (Harry Nannup)
- Mandjoogoordap Dreaming (George Walley)

### BENEFICIARIES

- Local primary school children
- Local Noongar community
- Ramsar Wetlands

### PROJECT MANAGER

Sharon Meredith, Wetlands and People Officer (PHCC)

### STEERING COMMITTEE

- Paddi Creevey
- Cr Caroline Knight
- Cr John Allert



## OUTCOMES

- Students engaged on site (On-Country) at the Peel-Yalgorup System Wetlands through storytelling and art
- Cultural stories and scientific knowledge of Peel-Yalgorup Wetlands shared
- Increased cultural and environmental awareness of Ramsar wetlands and surrounds
- Noongar knowledge and language shared
- Greater stewardship of the Peel-Yalgorup System encouraged
- Cultural and environmental awareness integrated into the Greenfields Primary School curriculum
- The artwork provides a permanent educational tool for classroom and school activities

## OUTPUTS

- 1 x Excursion with 52 students to 2 wetland sites (+5 parents)
- 1 x Art incursion at Greenfields Primary for 4 days
- 4 x Meetings with Noongar elder and Noongar community leader
- 2 Noongars supported to obtain Working with Children cards
- 3 Panel painting with accompanying Noongar Language Panel created and gifted to Greenfields Primary School
- 1 Presentation at school assembly
- 4 posters created of Noongar Language Panel and gifted to Elders and George and Leanne Walley

## PUBLIC AWARENESS

- Social Media: 7 Facebook posts, 5 Twitter posts
- Event Promoted on PHCC Website Events Page
- 1 Media Release – Published in Mandurah Mail and Coastal Times
- Case Study submitted to and published by the Ramsar Secretariat for the report on *The Relationship of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities with Wetlands*

## LOCATION:

The Peel-Yalgorup System covers 26,530ha including the Peel-Harvey Estuary, freshwater Lakes McLarty and Mealup and the coastal lands and lakes of Yalgorup NP.

## COLLABORATION

The project was a collaborative initiative of PHCC, Greenfields Primary School, Angela Rossen (artist), Noongar Elders and Mandjoogoordap Dreaming

## VOLUNTEERS

Parents who accompanied the students and staff on the excursion

## LINKS TO OTHER PROJECTS

Regular excursions with Greenfields Primary School to provide environmental education to the students.

## FUTURE ACTIVITIES

The Wetland Yarns project was viewed as a pilot project. The ambition is to make this a model that can be made available to other schools within the catchment to learn about our precious wetlands and the cultural significance of them. This includes building a portfolio of resources including written and audio visual materials; improving the efficiency of the excursions and content delivered.