

Connecting Corridors and Communities



PHCC | Working Together
Peel-Harvey Catchment Council



Restoring the Serpentine River

Edition 1
September 2018

Welcome to the first edition of *Connecting Corridors and Communities* - an update on the project and on Natural Resource Management (NRM) in our Peel-Harvey Catchment. 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.

Your Rivercare Team...



Through a collaborative approach, Healthy Rivers Coordinator Jo Garvey (left) and Rivercare Officer Jesse Rowley (right) are working closely with the community, including land managers, community groups and Noongar communities to help improve the health and biodiversity of the Serpentine River. This has been made possible through funding from Alcoa Foundation and the *Three Rivers One Estuary Initiative*, which runs until December 2020. If you wish to be on our mailing list to receive updates and further information please contact Jesse at jesse.rowley@peel-harvey.org.au.

Funding Opportunity

There will be an opportunity for funding of community driven projects, through a Community Environment Grant round, funded through the Alcoa Foundation project. The works will aim to improve the health and condition of the Serpentine River and its adjoining areas, through on-ground activities, such as the removal of invasive weeds, revegetation, bank restoration, fencing and more. Grants will be competitive and limited to those that fit within the project criteria. The on-grounds works will allow community, land managers and the Noongar community to work together under the guidance of PHCC. _

Did You Know?

The Serpentine River is located 65 km south of the City of Perth in the Peel-Harvey Catchment and covers an area of 664 square kilometres.

The Serpentine River and catchment is situated in the Southwest Australian Biodiversity Hotspot, the only internationally-recognised hotspot in Australia. The river and its surrounding catchment supports a number of Threatened Ecological Communities and Threatened Species as it makes its way

towards the internationally-recognised Ramsar listed Peel-Yalgorup System wetlands, the largest and most diverse wetland system in the south west of Australia. In turn, the Ramsar-listed wetlands provide habitat and food for migratory shorebirds protected under federal and international legislation.

Connecting Corridors and Communities - Restoring the Serpentine River is a collaborative conservation initiative to improve the health, biodiversity and

function of the Serpentine River and its adjoining areas. This innovative project involves with private landholders, local Noongars and volunteers working together to restore the riparian vegetation and river banks of the Serpentine River. It aims to bring all parties together to share knowledge and experiences and in the long term create a continuous wildlife corridor along the Serpentine River and its receiving water bodies.



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Healthy Rivers Stall Success

On July 29, approximately 350 community members came together for National Tree Day at Frasers Landing in Coodanup. Over 7000 seedlings were planted on the foreshore of the Serpentine River, with the aim to restore the banks of the river and enable habitat linkages to be formed for our native fauna like the quenda, honey possum, brush tail phascogale, quacking frog and others. We hope that engaging nearby community members to participate, will create ownership and long-term maintenance and care for the seedlings and ultimately the river.

On August 11, the Serpentine-Jarrahdale Community Fair was held with great success. PHCC was invited by Landcare SJ to join the Sustainability Corner of the fair to share knowledge with the community about what can be done to improve the health of our waterways in the Peel-Harvey Catchment.

At both events, PHCC was happy to support both City of Mandurah and Landcare SJ by hosting a Healthy Rivers stall to exchange stories and gain awareness and interest for our Connecting Corridors and Communities - Restoring the Serpentine River project.

Our interactive stall included the hands-on catchment model for the kids as well as macro-invertebrate sampling. A large map display also enabled members of the community to reminisce about their favourite memories, discussing what they care about in and around the river and identifying what flora and fauna species are seen in their backyards.

The important stories and messages gathered will inform our future Action Plan for the river, which will help guide future restoration actions.



River Caretakers

Jo Garvey met recently with long-time family farm manager Rupert Richardson, to look at past, current and future works along their part of the Serpentine River.

The Richardsons property is situated directly downstream from the only pristine section of the Serpentine River (Lowlands Reserve) and at the confluence of the Birrega Drain and Serpentine River.

The river was as high as its been for several years due to the recent high rainfall in the area. There was lots of discussion on instream measures which would also be of great benefit to the river, its foreshores and surrounding vegetation.

Future onground support opportunities will soon be offered to land managers like Rupert to improve connectivity and function of their river zones.

Coming Up...

Oct 13 Community Forum (Invite Only)

Want to know what is happening in and around the Serpentine River?

9:45am to 12pm

Lunch provided

rsvp essential to

rsvp@peel-harvey.org.au

Venue details will provided when you rsvp.



This project is supported by the Peel-Harvey Catchment Council through funding from the Alcoa Foundation's Three Rivers, One Estuary Initiative. Alcoa Foundation: Investing where Alcoa has a presence, partnering with communities to address local needs in a sustainable manner. With our nonprofit partners, we contribute to environmental excellence, economic success and social responsibility around the globe.

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