

# Landcare matters

Lake Clifton Sub-catchment



PHCC Working Together  
Peel-Harvey Catchment Council

Edition 6  
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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.

## Djeran brings a break to the long hot Summer

Djeran is the third of the six Nyoongar Seasons, commencing in April and running through to the end of May. This season welcomes the break in hot dry weather and brings with it cooler nights and some rainy days in the lead up to Winter.

Along with the chilly evenings you may notice some splashes of red in our bushland as Banksias show off their flowers. Bush tucker available at this time of year include freshwater fish, turtles, frogs and the treated seeds of zamia palms.

## Weedy Wattle!

*Acacia Longifolia* or Sydney Wattle is a large bushy shrub that catches the attention of many with its striking display of long, yellow, cylindrical flower spikes from July through to September. It has often been planted across the south west as an ornamental shrub or screening plant. However, as its name suggests, Sydney Wattle is an eastern states species that has become a nuisance weed in some locations within our catchment.



Acacia longifolia Photos: T.C. Daniell & M. Hancock

Given the right conditions Sydney Wattle covers areas in dense thickets, taking advantage of cleared or disturbed soils, and germinating on mass after fires. Its seeds remain viable in the soil for over a decade, and are spread by wind, water, soil movement and birds.

The weedy characteristics of Sydney Wattle mean that it out-competes our local plants and eventually creates less habitat for local wildlife. If you have mature specimens of the Wattle on your property, be vigilant for seedlings and hand-pull them when they appear. You may also wish to consider removing larger specimens that have been historically planted. Larger plants can be cut and painted with a chemical solution as per the suggested control methods available on the Florabase website - <https://florabase.dpaw.wa.gov.au/browse/profile/17861>. Remember to read the manufacturers' labels and material safety data sheets before using any chemicals.

Areas cleared of the Wattle can be back-filled with an assortment of local native shrubs to entice birds and other critters to your property. When selecting plant species be sure to choose local native species to increase your chances of successful growing, provide appropriate habitat for local wildlife and decrease your chances of introducing weedy plants. If you have your heart set on those vibrant yellow flowers associated with Wattles, there are several native species that can provide a bright pop of colour, including *Acacia rostellifera* (Summer-scented wattle) and *Acacia pulchella* (Prickly Moses).

Photo Acknowledgment - Photography by T.C. Daniell & M. Hancock. Image used with the permission of the Western Australian Herbarium, Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (<https://florabase.dpaw.wa.gov.au/help/copyright>). Accessed on Tuesday, 2 April 2019

## Helping to provide habitat for Black-Cockatoos



Photo: Keith Lightbody

BirdLife Australia has recently started a project with the support of the Alcoa Foundation to work with local communities to protect and increase important food and nest habitat for Black-Cockatoos.

Birdlife is keen to hear from residents interested in providing habitat for Black-Cockatoos on their properties, including artificial nests ('Cockatubes') and planting suitable natives that will provide food in future years. If you are interested in this project please contact Adam Peck, BirdLife Black-Cockatoo Coordinator on 9287 2251 or [adam.peck@birdlife.org.au](mailto:adam.peck@birdlife.org.au)

## Coming Up...

MAY 16 S.H.A.R.E. in the Shed  
Banksia Woodlands

JUNE 8 Lake Clifton Seedling Giveaway

Keep an eye on our Facebook page and website...[www.peel-harvey.org.au](http://www.peel-harvey.org.au)



This project is supported by PHCC through funding from the City of Mandurah and Shire of Waroona

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