

Landcare matters

Hotham-Williams sub-catchment update



PHCC Working Together
Peel-Harvey Catchment Council

Edition 32
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NRM is the management of natural resources such as land, water, soils, plants and animals. It brings together land use planning, water management, biodiversity conservation and sustainability of industries such as agriculture, mining, tourism, fisheries and forestry.



Tunbridge Gully Update



Spraying of *Juncus acutus* (Spiny Rush) has been completed for the 3rd year in Tunbridge Gully. It has been encouraging to see the extent of the weed greatly reduced since the Tunbridge Gully Restoration project commenced in 2016 thanks to funding through South32 Worsley Alumina.

The burn off which took place last autumn to reduce the dead biomass and seed head has exposed regrowth of the weed making it easier for young plants to be targeted with herbicide. Planning for a second controlled burn is underway with the local volunteer fire brigades and will hopefully occur in the coming weeks.

Local Shire Visits



Mel has been out in May talking to the Shires of Williams and Cuballing about the work we've been doing in their local communities. Mel spoke about our now secured 5 years of funding from the Australian Governmental National Landcare Program and Newmont Boddington Gold and how this will benefit the community.

PHCC is working with the Boddington, Wandering, Cuballing and Williams Shires through the formalised Hotham-Williams Shires Memorandum of Understanding.

Wandoo Crown Decline and Lerp

You may have observed a decline in the crown health of wandoo trees recently. This is largely due to a reduction in rainfall and increasing temperatures causing the trees to become stressed and vulnerable to insect infestations and associated pathogenic fungi. Single paddock trees and road side trees are more likely to suffer from crown decline, possibly due to the fact there are less of the insects' natural predators.

The beetle, known as *Cisseis fascigera*, can cause decline in wandoo crowns. The adult beetles lay their eggs on the bark of twigs in summer, the eggs hatch and the larvae bore a tunnel down the twig and branch, which results in branch death, particularly in autumn.

Lerp (psyllid) can affect stressed wandoo trees, they are sap sucking insects which attack leaves causing discolouration and defoliation. *Eucalyptus rudis* known locally as flooded gum, are also commonly affected by lerp especially in creek lines and river systems. Most trees can cope with high lerp numbers for a couple of

seasons, climate is one of the main factors that influence the growth and decline of lerp populations.

Wandoo crown decline is more prevalent in dry autumns and most trees are able to recover from the associated insect infestations. An unintentional cause of tree decline can sometimes be caused by spray drift from herbicide applications.

If you would like more information see the links below or call us on 0455166780.

<https://library.dbca.wa.gov.au/static/FullTextFiles/922431.pdf>

<https://www.agric.wa.gov.au/pest-insects/native-plant-pests?page=0%2C1>

https://www.agric.wa.gov.au/sites/all/modules/custom/seed_tools/pestweb/907120914.html

<https://cms.canning.wa.gov.au/Latest-News/2017/10/24/03/53/Psyllids-attacking-Swamp-Gums>

Thanks to Peter White from DBCA for this information.

Coming Up...

MAY Dryandra Woodland Phascogale Nest Box installation with the Wandering Primary School students

MAY/JUNE Completion visits for the 2018/2019 landholder grants

JUNE 6 Peel Bright Minds Pop up Science Café in Boddington

SEP/OCT River Action Plan field work and health assessments for the Hotham and Williams Rivers

Watch this space for the 2019/2020 potential grant opportunities

Do you have an NRM event you would like us to promote? Please contact Mel Durack at melanie.durack@peel-harvey.org.au or 0455 166 780

