

Lake Clifton Catchment Conservation Stewardship program 2018-2019 Annual Report



The Lake Clifton Catchment Conservation Stewardship program is a 5-year partnership project (2018-2022) of the Peel-Harvey Catchment Council, City of Mandurah and Shire of Waroona. The project's aim is to support landowners in the Lake Clifton Catchment to sustainably manage natural habitats and water resources. With this aim, the project's activities contribute towards an increase in the health and resilience of natural resources in the Catchment, including Lake Clifton and the threatened ecological community of Thrombolites found in the Lake.

This report represents the achievements of Year Two of the Project.

Reporting Period: 1 July 2018 – 30 June 2019
Project Officer: Jordon Garbellini Adams, Land Conservation Officer
Year 2 funding: \$50,000 City of Mandurah, \$2500 Shire of Waroona
Project meetings 1 x City of Mandurah, 15/2/19; 1 X Officers meeting 22/5/19

Table 1: Summary of 2018-19 achievements against contracted deliverables

	Contracted deliverable	2018-19 Achievements
1	Hold 1 Event (Seedling Giveaway)*	2019 Lake Clifton Seedling Giveaway <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8th June 2019 • 45 Landholders • 1960 Seedlings provided to landholders Presentations - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Western Ringtail Possum Tally (DBCA) • Choose for Cockatoos (Birdlife Australia) • A World of Woodlands (PHCC) • Ramsar Wetlands and People (PHCC)
2	Hold 1 Event (TBD)	2019 Yalgorup Bioblitz <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of interactive display
3	Prepare and distribute minimum quarterly newsletters	Prepared and distributed four editions of Lake Clifton Landcare Matters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Edition Nos. 3 – 6 • 125 email recipients and published on PHCC website • Linked in PHCC's e-newsletter <i>Wattle & Quoll</i>
4	Continue engagement with Lake Clifton Community and implement Land for Wildlife (LFW) site assessments (ongoing)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two (2) additional properties registered • Four (4) Expressions of Interest received June 2019
5	Commence engagement with Lake Clifton Community for Voluntary Management Agreements - VMAs (ongoing)	The City and PHCC have agreed (15/2/19) that LFW Site Assessment Reports and funding agreements (where applicable) will take the place of VMAs to landholders.
6	Launch and Grants for VMA participants* (subject to funding)	Promoted PHCC Community Environment Grants 'A world of Woodlands' Banksia Woodlands of the SCP' to landholders
7	Actively promote Program via traditional and social media (ongoing)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PHCC Facebook Page • Jordon Garbellini (PHCC) Twitter • Andrew DelMarco (PHCC) Twitter • PHCC Twitter • Prepared and distributed four editions of Lake Clifton Landcare Matters

1. 2019 Lake Clifton Seedling Giveaway

The 2019 Lake Clifton Seedling Giveaway was held on Saturday the 8th of June at the Lake Clifton Community Centre. 45 landholders attended the event in response to our mailbox drop, emailed invitation, and Lake Clifton Landcare Newsletter.

This year's Seedling Giveaway was designed to provide Lake Clifton Landholders with information on local wildlife. Following last year's 'Black Cockatoo Artificial Hollow' presentation from Landcare SJ, Birdlife Australia provided a 'Choose for Black Cockatoos' presentation that highlighted the importance of planting local native seedlings as a food source for the three Black Cockatoo species that utilize the Lake Clifton Catchment for feeding, breeding and roosting habitat. This presentation was particularly relevant as Birdlife:

- contributed 240 seedlings that were included in those distributed to event attendees, with seedlings being a mix of suitable Cockatoo food species,
- outlined opportunities for landholders to access support for revegetation, and install artificial nesting hollows. Landholders interested in installing a nesting hollow will be assessed by Birdlife officers to ensure that the site has a high likelihood of being used for Black Cockatoo breeding.

The Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions provided a presentation on the Possum Tally initiative, following on from last year's 'Western Ringtail Possum' presentation by Mandurah Wildlife Rescue. The presentation was very well received by attendees, eight (8) of whom have signed up to take part in the next Ringtail Possum Tally later this year.

Two presentations were delivered by PHCC Project Officers to introduce the Ramsar Project and Banksia Woodlands Project, two new 5-year projects supported under the Australian Government's National Landcare Program that will apply to large parts of the Lake Clifton Catchment and complement this project.

Several community groups and organisations were also in attendance at the event and provided attendees with information on additional topics such as controlling feral animals, identifying weeds on your property and local wildlife. This event provides an opportunity for NRM officers to speak with landholders one-on-one and for landholders to provide feedback on topics of interest for future events.



Figure 1: Residents receiving seedlings at the 2019 Lake Clifton Seedling Giveaway

We acknowledge the Noongar people as Traditional Custodians of this land and pay our respects to all Elders past and present

Seedling giveaway



Please join us...

for a morning of **knowledge sharing** and **native seedling giveaway**

Saturday **8th June** 2019

8.45am - 11.30am

Lake Clifton Herron Community Centre 114 Tuart Grove Avenue, Lake Clifton



National Landcare Program



This project is supported by the Peel-Harvey Catchment Council through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Program.



PHOTO: Keith Lightbody

8:45 am

Registration

9:15 am

Welcome

9:20 am

A World of Woodlands

9:35 am

Choose for Black Cockatoos

9:50 am

Ramsar Wetlands and People

10:05 am

Western Ringtail Possum Tally

10:15 am

Lake Clifton Landcare Quiz

10:30 am

Morning Tea and Info Fair

11:00 am

Seedling Collection

RSVP essential by **3rd June 2019**

P: **6369 8800** or E: events@peel-harvey.org.au

This event is provided FREE to Lake Clifton and Herron landholders with activities for the kids and a yummy morning tea!



Figure 2: Meeting neighbours and receiving one-on-one advice are important parts of the Seedling Giveaway



Figure 3: Presenters covered a range of topics from the Western Ringtail Possum to the Lake Clifton Thrombolites.

2. Yalgorup BioBlitz – Land for Wildlife Booth

PHCC contributed to the City of Mandurah’s Yalgorup BioBlitz through the addition of a combined stall focusing on the Shorebirds of the Ramsar listed Yalgorup Wetlands and Lake Clifton Wildlife, manned by the Land Conservation officer and Wetlands and People officer. The event did not generate expected visitor numbers (poor weather was thought to have been a deterrent) and it was not successful in generating further interest in stewardship activities such as Land for Wildlife in the catchment. This event did however provide an opportunity for the Land Conservation Officer to pull together materials for an interactive display that will be useful for future events.



Figure 4: The Yalgorup Bioblitz provided a great opportunity to promote Land for Wildlife to the local community

2. Quarterly newsletters

Editions 3 to 6 of the Lake Clifton Landcare Matters were prepared and distributed to the Lake Clifton/ Herron community via email and sharing on local Facebook pages in 2018/19 (Attachment 1). PHCC currently have a mailing list comprising of 125 Lake Clifton/Herron landholders, that has been compiled through event registration and landholder surveys over the life of the project. We continue to add contacts as our interaction with the catchment community grows. In addition to the Lake Clifton catchment landholders, the project is promoted to the wider Peel-Harvey community through the PHCC’s website and the inclusion of the Lake Clifton Landcare Matters in PHCC’s e-newsletter *Wattle & Quoll*.

3. Land for Wildlife Site Assessments

Stewardship activities have continued over the last year with two landholders joining Land for Wildlife (LFW), a DBCA program delivered in partnership with the PHCC. One of the properties registered with the program contacted PHCC directly and the other was directed to PHCC through the Department's Land for Wildlife Coordinator. Both properties were awarded full registration into the program after a site visit from PHCC's Land Conservation Officer. The site visit and follow-up Site Assessment Report (undertaken by PHCC) and LfW Gate signage are important in establishing a rapport with landholders. One landholder involved in the LfW program is the administrator for a local Clifton-Herron Facebook page and has assisted with the distribution of the Lake Clifton Landcare Matters to a wider audience.

Four landholders that attended the 2019 Seedling Giveaway have expressed an interest in joining the Land for Wildlife Program and they have been contacted to register their interest through the Department's website. Once their registrations are received the PHCC will schedule a site visit.

A summary of Lake Clifton Catchment landholders involved in the Land for Wildlife program are included in Attachment 2. This information is confidential and not for distribution.



Figure 5: Land for Wildlife provides a great opportunity for landowners to learn more about their patch of the catchment

4. Voluntary Management Agreements

The City and PHCC have agreed (15/2/19) that LFW Site Assessment Reports and funding agreements (where applicable) will take the place of VMAs to landholders.

Landholder registration to the Land for Wildlife program, and entry into a Funding Agreement require a commitment from landholders to ensure long-term environmental protection and build trust between the PHCC and landholder. Should the Land for Wildlife program not become available to landholders in the future, then the need for VMAs can be revisited.

5. Grants

In 2018/19 landholders in the Catchment were encouraged to access funding through the PHCC project A World for Woodlands. This project focused on conservation of the Banksia Woodlands of the Swan Coastal Plain Threatened Ecological Community, which occurs in some parts of the Catchment.

Although there were no applicants in this first round of funding, the second round of funding will be announced in August 2019 and eligible landholders will be personally contacted and encouraged to apply for funding (those who have had a Land for Wildlife Site Assessment on their property, or undertake to have a Site Assessment conducted as part of the grants process).



We acknowledge the Noongar people as Traditional Custodians of this land and pay our respects to all Elders past and present

Landcare matters

Lake Clifton Sub-catchment

PHCC Working Together
Peel-Harvey Catchment Council

Edition 4
October 2018

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.

Funding available to support landcare projects in Banksia Woodlands

We are excited to announce a funding opportunity available to assist landholders with on ground landcare activities focused on the Banksia Woodlands of the Swan Coastal Plain (SCP). The funding opportunity is part of PHCC's new project 'A World of Woodlands' funded by the Australian Government's National Landcare Program.

Banksia Woodlands are a beautiful feature of the Peel Region, including the Lake Clifton Catchment. Characterised by four dominant tree species: Firewood Banksia (*B. menziesii*), Candlestick Banksia (*B. attenuate*), Acorn Banksia (*B. prionotes*) and Holly-Leaved Banksia (*B. ilicifolia*), these woodlands play a key role in supporting over 600 native plants, 74 reptile, 16 mammal, 38 bird and 7 frog species.

The extended flowering period of the more dominant Banksias help sustain many nectarivorous birds and other fauna that rely on flowering species for food all year round, including the Honey Possum (*Tarsipes rostratus*), Carnaby's Black Cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus latirostris*) and the Brush-tailed Phascogale (*Phascogale tapoatafa wambenger*).

Given that many Banksia Woodlands have been cleared or are under threat, Banksia Woodlands of the SCP are listed as a Threatened Ecological Community (TEC) under the Australian Government's Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act. Remaining Woodlands are under increasing threat by poorly located development, uncontrolled stock access, rubbish dumping, feral animals and the spread of Phytophthora dieback disease.

If you are interested in learning more about funding opportunities to undertake a landcare project within Banksia Woodlands, such as fencing, dieback mapping/control or weed control, please contact us on 6369 8800 or email grants@peel-harvey.org.au

PHOTO: Keith Lightbody



Figure 6: Article in Edition 4 of Landcare Matters promoting funding available to landholders

6. Promotions and communications

Social media was used extensively in 2018/19 to promote the Project’s achievements and the opportunities available to landholders. A selection of social media posts over 2018/19 are included below. A Project Summary brochure was also prepared and made available through the PHCC website (Attachment 3).

Andrew Del Marco @AndrewDelMarco · Jun 10
 What a great feeling to give away thousands of seedlings to over 40 residents in the Lake Clifton Catchment. Thanks all our partners @AusLandcare @CityofMandurah @BirdlifeOz @WAParksWildlife @PH_Biosecurity Shire of Waroona.

4 13

Jordon Garbellini @JordonGarbellin · Oct 17, 2018
 Another #BlueDiamond in the Lake Clifton Catchment! These Lake Clifton locals are passionate about their patch and proud to display their new #LandforWildlife sign to show their dedication @PeelHarveyCC @CityofMandurah @WAParksWildlife

1 3 11

Jordon Garbellini @JordonGarbellin · Jun 3
 Another Lake Clifton local joins the #LandforWildlife family! Karena has a strong passion for local wildlife and a commitment to keeping the bush land on her property undistributed, providing a sanctuary for our native critters @PeelHarveyCC @CityofMandurah

3 5

Peel-Harvey Catchment Council
 Published by Sammy Shorebird [?] · 18 July 2018 ·
 Flora guru Heather, in her element, talking #LandforWildlife with local landholders as part of our Lake Clifton Stewardship Project #PeopleofNRM City of Mandurah

Jordon Garbellini @JordonGarbellin · May 30
 Lots happening in Lake Clifton with a focus on some of the things that make this area unique - Black Cockatoos, Western Ringtail Possums and Thrombolites! @CityofMandurah @BirdlifeOz @PH_Biosecurity @WAParksWildlife

2 4

Jordon Garbellini @JordonGarbellin · Sep 9, 2018
 Another #LakeClifton property has been decorated with the blue diamond and joined the #LandforWildlife family @WAParksWildlife @PeelHarveyCC

1 4 13

Figure 7: A selection of social media posts over 2018/19 promoting the Lake Clifton Stewardship Project (continued)



8. Combined Lake Clifton Officers meeting

A meeting to bring together the multiple project officers and coordinators working across the Lake Clifton Catchment was convened by the PHCC in May 2019 and held at the Lake Clifton Community hall. The purpose of this meeting was to identify potential collaboration opportunities and ensure that our communications to the Lake Clifton Catchment Community are clear, consistent and complementary. The meeting was attended by officers of the City of Mandurah, Shire of Waroona, Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions, Birdlife Australia, Peel-Harvey Biosecurity Group and the Lake Clifton Landcare Group.

The meeting provided an introduction between officers who had not previously worked together and has resulted in discussions around future partnership events focusing on Lake Clifton Wildlife.



Figure 8: The May 2019 meeting provided the opportunity for officers from different organisations to share news on their projects and future activities

9. Overview of 2019-20

In 2018-19, the project has involved 45 landholders and 5 organisations and community groups to support the work of the PHCC and local governments in the Lake Clifton Catchment.

Delivery of the agreed project components in 2019/20:

- Will include a Seedling Giveaway event in June 2020, with consideration of participant feedback received from the 2018/19 event, and when and how the event can be delivered to have the greatest appeal to residents.
- Continue to work collaboratively with other organisations to focus on iconic local fauna such as the Western Ringtail Possum and all three species of Black Cockatoos.
- Plan and deliver a second community event in the Catchment, possibly drawing on activities and events related to the DBCA Possum Tally initiative, Birdlife's Black Cockatoo Project and PHCC Ramsar Project or Banksia Woodlands Project.
- Will continue to promote Site Assessments and involvement in the Land for Wildlife program; Participation in the program is free, voluntary, and links you to expert advice and funding opportunities.
- Will actively promote, encourage and support landowners to apply for exclusive grants available to those with, or who commit to site assessments.
- Prepare and distribute the quarterly Lake Clifton Landcare Matters newsletter to ensure residents see what is happening in their catchment and how they can get involved.

10. Attachments

All attachments are separately bound

Attachment 1 Lake Clifton Landcare Matters

Attachment 2 Land for Wildlife program landholders in the Lake Clifton Catchment

Attachment 3 Project Summary – Lake Clifton Catchment Stewardship Program