

# Hotham-Williams Project REPORT

PHCC General Meeting August 2020

Melanie Durack, Program Manager, Hotham Williams



## **RLP – Numbat Neighbourhood**

**Jul 2018 – Jun 2023 \$2,174,505**

*Managed by Mel Durack, supported by Christine Townsend (Farmers for Fauna Coordinator) 3 days/week.*

- Achieved all Year 2 Quarter (2019/20) deliverables and reported in MERIT. Final invoice for year 2 submitted, \$179,337.50 (exc GST). Major components:
  - o Community Environmental Grant Round 2019-20 on-ground works: completion visits were conducted ensuring that extra precautions taken with regards to social distancing and appropriate hygiene protocols. Mel coordinated these standards with relevant project officers.
  - o Disease management: Disease mapping was completed and field taping to be installed in August to demarcate any infested areas.
- Annual report submitted in MERIT with the following key achievements for the reporting year, noting the project is tracking well towards 2023 outcomes:
  - o Reducing threats, protection of habitat patches tracking well through on-ground works including fencing (18 km) and weed control (12 ha) with a total of 182 ha protected.
  - o Targeted feral cat trapping (Farmers for Fauna) with 68 culled cats reported, large scale release of RHDV1-K5 rabbit virus and feral pig control.
  - o Improving landholders understanding with 73 landholders attending workshops/training/feral animal control events (total 530 community attendees). 9 landholders completed on-ground works.
  - o Further engagement continues through monthly Hotham-Williams Landcare matters publications printed in 4 local newsletters & distributed via email.
  - o Noongar partnership signed with Wiilman community representative, Mr Travis (Jock) Abraham.
  - o Partnership signed to support Perth Zoo's Numbat Breed for Release program is progressing well and PHCC is an active member of the Numbat Recovery Team.
  - o Partnership continues with DBCA to value add to Dryandra specific work including a fauna habitat survey, monitoring regimes and supporting the feral free enclosure. Additional artificial habitat structures were installed to support red-tailed phascogales.
- Planning and delivery of Year 3 Quarter 1 is underway. The major component is following up on expressions of interest for the 2020/21 Community Environmental Grant Round. Site visits are well underway and assisting landholders and community groups with their applications. Applications close on 31<sup>st</sup> August. Mel has been coordinating this grants program which covers the Numbat, Greening Farms, Banksia and Black Cockatoo projects.
- In the process of establishing a partnership with Indigenous Workabout to enable support to local Shires with weed control along the Hotham River.
- Also working to formalize a partnership with PYNC, owned and operated by Daniel Christensen in the Cuballing-Popanyinning area to assist landholders to control feral cats around Dryandra Woodland.
- Assisted with a submission on the Parliamentary Inquiry into the Problem of Feral and Domestic Cats in Australia.

**Newmont - Hotham-Williams NRM & Conservation Project****Jan 2018 - Dec 2022 \$500,000**

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*Managed by Mel Durack, supported by Kristy Gregory 2 days/week until 31<sup>th</sup> December 2020.*

- The Final Hotham-Williams River Action Plan (RAP) was provided to the Hotham-Williams Shires for their information. PHCC will be working with these Shires on planning potential projects based on the recommendations from the RAP. Initial discussions have been held with Shires of Cuballing and Williams.
- As previously mentioned PHCC requires further funding to engage Urbaqua for the development of detailed and site specific concept plans for the 8 sites which were field assessed. PHCC submitted a funding application to South32 for a 5 year strategic partnership which will enable the concept plans to be developed and priority on-ground works to occur.
- Kristy Gregory continues to support this project 2 days per week until December 2020 and is working on restoration plans for each of the priority sites.
- Newmont and PHCC prepared a joint application for the 2020 Community Partnership Resource Sector Award and have recently been informed the partnership has been shortlisted for the award. Mel and Newmont to present to a selection panel on 12<sup>th</sup> August. Announcement of the award winner will occur at an awards ceremony in October (date TBC). More information: <http://dmp.wa.gov.au/News/Resources-sector-projects-apply-27292.aspx>
- The draft river health assessment report prepared by Wetland Research and Management has now been received and is under review by PHCC, DWER and Newmont. Findings to be shared at the next board meeting.
- Mel Durack will continue to represent PHCC at the quarterly Newmont Community Reference Group meetings in 2020 and is the current chair.

**South32 - Tunbridge Gully Stage 3&4 (South32)****Jul 2018 – Jun 2021 \$78,141**

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*Managed by Mel Durack and delivered by Helen Parsons working 2 days/week.*

- The annual planting event with Boddington DHS occurred on 30<sup>th</sup> June. Over 6,000 seedling have been planted in the area this season.
- A field day on *Juncus acutus* control is still planned demonstrate the work which been undertaken to control the invasive weed within a natural creekline and on farm land. This will be a jointly coordinated workshop with the Greening Farms project. Timing still to be determined.
- Mel Durack will continue to represent PHCC at the quarterly South32 Mine Community Liaison Committee meetings in 2020. South32 will be undertaking extensive consultation for their expansion project ahead of a public environmental review period which is due the second half of this year.
- Helen Parsons assisting with this project and additional other project support 2 days per week.

**Hotham-Williams Shires MOU (subject to annual budget approvals)****Aug 2018 – Aug 2023****\$180,000\***

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*Managed by Mel Durack and delivered by Helen Parsons working 2 days/week.*

- PHCC is supported the Friends of the Reserves Boddington (Inc.) with a State NRM grant application to continue bridal creeper control in Boddington's Camballing Reserve and surrounds. PHCC's support will include coordination and reporting. Awaiting announcement of successful recipients.
- Mel continues to be involved in a Green Canopy Committee providing advice to the Shire of Boddington on species selection and placement for seedlings to be planted within the Shire of Boddington. The Friends of the Reserves Boddington President, Robin Andersson is also a member of the committee.

## **Other Project Support**

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- Coordination of the Community Environmental Grant Round 2020/2021. This includes the Numbat, Greening Farms, Banksia and Black Cockatoo projects.
- Two new local volunteers were on-boarded to provide support to the Hotham-Williams and experience opportunities. Total of three volunteers now in the area.
- Attended the Wandering Farm Productivity Group Meeting & Information Session with Paula Pownall on 25<sup>th</sup> June. Great to see a committee formed as the group has been inactive for some time.
- Assisted with Noongar consultation for the Black Cockatoo project.
- Acting CEO whilst Jane is on annual leave.

## **Planned Events (and/or PHCC sponsoring or presenting) – check website**

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*Due to COVID-19 restrictions, all face to face events have been delayed until later in 2020.*

- Tunbridge Gully
  - o *Juncus acutus* field Workshop (to be delivered with Greening Farms project) –TBC
- Planned Numbat Neighbourhood events:
  - o Williams Primary School Excursion to Dryandra (inc. Project Numbat) – October 2020
  - o Numbat Dig Workshop with landholders – November 2020
  - o 1080 accreditation workshop – February 2021
  - o Managing your bushland & pest animal workshop proposed – Oct/Nov 2020 TBC
  - o Potential Project Numbat School Incursions -TBC
  - o Dieback Green Card Training (in conjunction with disease mapping) – late 2020/early 2021
  - o Chemcert training – PHCC supporting landholders and community members to attend a course being hosted by the Williams CRC in September.

**Communications** – See most recent issues of “*Landcare Matters: Hotham Williams*” July and August 2020 Editions attached.

## **Work Health Safety**

- There are no incidences to report.
- Mel, Christine and Helen all attend 4WD training in July.

*Melanie Durack*

**Program Manager, Hotham-Williams**

# Landcare matters

## Hotham-Williams sub-catchment update



Edition 44  
July 2020



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.



## Community Environment Grants

We have been out and about visiting landholders who have completed their 2019/2020 Community Environment Grant Projects. There were 14 projects funded in the Hotham-Williams Sub-catchment through PHCC's Numbat Neighbourhood Project and an additional 16 through the Greening Farms Project.

2020/2021 funding is now available for landholders in the Hotham and Williams Rivers Catchment for eligible landcare and bushcare works.

Interested? Contact us to discuss your project ideas and eligibility against funding priorities

P: 6369 8801 / 0455 166 780 or  
E: [grants@peel-harvey.org.au](mailto:grants@peel-harvey.org.au)



## RegenWA goes online

RegenWA has recently been hosting online events remotely. The best news is that the videos are now available to watch online for free!

If you are interested in regenerative agriculture and would like to check the videos out, please follow this link: <https://www.regenwa.com/resources/presentations/>, otherwise be sure to follow Regen WA out on Social media @RegenWA (twitter) and online regenwa.com

For further information please contact our RALF Officer Paula Pownall: [paula.pownall@peel-harvey.org.au](mailto:paula.pownall@peel-harvey.org.au)



**COVID-19** We value the health and safety of our whole community and PHCC is now accepting visitors on an appointment basis only. Please contact us to make a booking via phone on 6369 8801 or 0455 166 780 or via email.

## Are you a Dryandra local?



Do you live near Dryandra Woodland and have a linkage project you would like help with? We have funding available through the Numbat Neighbourhood Project to help you with these projects. Please call Mel Durack or Christine Townsend on 6369 8801 or 0455 166 780.

## What else is happening...

- Do you have black cockatoos hanging out in your patch? We would love to hear from you! If you think you might know where black cockatoos are nesting in tree hollows within the Peel-Harvey, please contact Megan LeRoy on 6369 8800 or email [megan.leroy@peel-harvey.org.au](mailto:megan.leroy@peel-harvey.org.au). If you are a landholder near a nesting site, you may be eligible for financial assistance to improve and maintain habitat.
- PHCC has two new volunteers which now means we have three dedicated volunteers in the Hotham-Williams Sub-catchment. We'd like to thank our volunteers for all of their help and support.

## Coming Up...

- Completion visits for 2019/2020 landholders grants
- Expressions of interest for 2020/2021 landcare funding
- Expressions of interest to release rabbit virus RHDV1-K5 this Spring. Please contact [helen.parsons@peel-harvey.org.au](mailto:helen.parsons@peel-harvey.org.au) or call 63698801 or 0455 166 780
- Tree planting in Tunbridge Gully with Boddington District High School students - July

*Do you have an NRM event or information you would like us to promote? Please contact Mel Durack at [melanie.durack@peel-harvey.org.au](mailto:melanie.durack@peel-harvey.org.au) or 0455 166 780 or 6369 8801*



[melanie.durack@peel-harvey.org.au](mailto:melanie.durack@peel-harvey.org.au)  
[www.peel-harvey.org.au](http://www.peel-harvey.org.au)





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Hotham-Williams sub-catchment update



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## Tunbridge Gully Planting Day

The yearly planting of Tunbridge Gully was once again conducted in June 2020. This project aims to improve the health of the vegetation with the removal of the invasive weed *Juncus acutus* (Spiny rush). Over 6,000 species have been planted this year within a 7 hectare area leading along the gully and into the Hotham River.

Thank you to all 50 volunteers from the Year 6 Boddington District High School Students, South 32 and Newmont employees, Friends of the Reserves – Boddington (Inc.) and PHCC volunteers. Everyone braved the winter conditions, muddy water ways and enjoyed planting the seedlings, all to be rewarded with a great sausage sizzle from the BDHS P&C.



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## Wandering Primary School Red-tailed Phascogale Project

The Wandering Primary School students have been planting to improve red-tailed phascogale habitat that is located on their school grounds.

In 2018 the students made and installed a red-tailed phascogale nest box and they are now planting thickets of sheoaks and other locally found trees and shrubs that are the preferred habitat for phascogales.

The photo right shows Christine using a nest box camera to monitor the nest box. So far, no phascogales have moved in but one has been spotted in a neighbouring garden!



## What's happening...

**We welcomed 3 volunteers to the Hotham-Williams Team:** Victoria Brockhurst, Christina Nardini and Rebecca Clarke. You may see more of our new volunteers when we are out and about undertaking expression of interest visits for our 2020-21 Community Environment Grant round.

**Do you have black cockatoos hanging out in your patch? We would love to hear from you!** If you think you might know where black cockatoos are nesting in tree hollows within the Peel-Harvey, please contact Megan LeRoy on 6369 8800 or email [megan.leroy@peel-harvey.org.au](mailto:megan.leroy@peel-harvey.org.au). If you are a landholder near a nesting site, you may be eligible for financial assistance to improve and maintain habitat.

**Expression of interest site visits for this year's Community Environment Grant round.** If you have contacted PHCC about a project you will be contacted soon to organise a time for a site visit. Applications are due on the 31st of August.

## Coming Up...

Expressions of interests for **2020/2021 landcare funding**. Interested? Contact us to discuss your project ideas and eligibility against funding priorities P: 6369 8801, 0455 166 780 or E: [grants@peel-harvey.org.au](mailto:grants@peel-harvey.org.au)

Expressions of interest to release **rabbit virus RHDV1-K5** this Spring. Please contact [helen.parsons@peel-harvey.org.au](mailto:helen.parsons@peel-harvey.org.au) or call 63698801 or 0455 166 780

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