

Landcare matters

Hotham-Williams sub-catchment update



Edition 46
September 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.



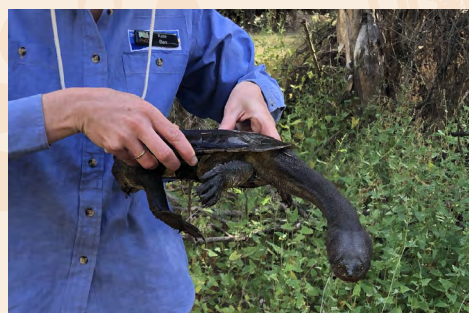
Hotham-Williams River Health Assessment

Results are in!

In May we reported that the autumn river health assessment sampling had been completed for the Hotham and Williams Rivers. We now have preliminary results, from Wetland Research and Management, which cover a comprehensive set of ecological parameters including a survey of fish, crayfish and macroinvertebrate communities, along with instream habitat condition and water quality measurements. These results will be combined with results from the river action plan to provide a score card on the health of our waterways and will be shared with the community.

Three of the six river health sampling sites offered up a total of 46 snake-necked turtles over both sampling events in spring 2019 and autumn 2020. *Chelodina colliei* is endemic

to the south-west of WA and is listed on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Redlist of Threatened Species as Near Threatened. These turtles only eat when open water is present because their diet includes tadpoles, fish, and aquatic invertebrates. The main threats to their survival is a drying climate, road deaths during movement in the nesting season and predation by feral animals.



Landcare Snapshot

- We have had an amazing response to our call out for expressions of interest for Landcare funding. The team have been busy visiting potential Numbat Neighbourhood, Greening Farms and Black Cockatoo Projects. We have received 31 expressions of interest in the Hotham-Williams Sub-catchment.
- Newmont and PHCC prepared a joint application for the 2020 Community Partnership Resource Sector Award (under the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety's 2020 Resources Sector Awards for Excellence). The partnership has been shortlisted as a finalist. Mel Durack and Newmont's Leesa King presented to a selection panel and the award winner will be announced in October.
- The Hotham-Williams River Action Plan is now finalised and we are in the process of sharing this with the local Shire councils. We are currently applying for funds so on-ground works can be planned, discussed with the community and implemented.
- 68 feral cats have been culled and reported to PHCC over 12 months. Predation by feral cats is one of the most significant threats to our native animals. If you cull a feral cat contact Christine on 0455166780 or christine.townsend@peel-harvey.org.au. We have vouchers to say thank you for this information.

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.

Black Cockatoo nesting is about to begin...



PHOTO: Keith Lightbody

What to look out for

September to January is the approximate nesting window for our Black Cockatoos. They will nest in large, hollow bearing trees, such as Marri and Wandoo.

Signs they are nesting include:

- Pairs of birds looking inside hollows
- Chipping (chewing) around hollow entrances
- Males feeding females (by regurgitation)
- Females on their own near hollows

If you do observe any of the above behaviours please notify our Black Cockatoo Project Officer Megan LeRoy by email megan.leroy@peel-harvey.org.au or phone 6369 8800. Megan can come and confirm nesting and may be able to use a pole mounted camera to look in the hollow.

Coming Up...

- Spring - Rabbit virus release (RHDV1-K5)
- November – Numbat Dig Workshop in Dryandra Woodland. Stay tuned for more information.
- Late 2020/early 2021 Pest control & bushland management
- Early 2021 - Spiny Rush (*Juncus acutus*) control demonstration site



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