

Landcare matters

Hotham-Williams sub-catchment update



Edition 48
November 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.



Wandering Farm Productivity Group



Over 40 people attended the Wandering Farm Productivity Group Field Day on October 1.

Vet, Tim Watts spoke to farmers about ewe and lamb nutrition, managing the phasing out of muelsing and the use of electronic tags. There was a sheep handler demonstration and Ross Major from Ballard Seeds spoke on different pasture varieties available, and landholders were then able to see some of these species first hand.

PHCC's Regional Agriculture Landcare Facilitator, Paula Pownall attended the event and dinner was provided for the attendees through funding from our Greening Farms Project.

For more information about the Wandering Farm Productivity Group please contact Brendon Hardie on 0428 258 350.

Grant Updates...

A total of 39 Community Environment Grant projects, including 22 in the Hotham Williams Sub-Catchment, were approved for funding under our Numbat Neighbourhood, Black-Cockatoo and Greening Farms Projects.

The work to be carried out includes:

- fencing to protect remnant woodland and creeklines
- feral animal and weed control
- revegetation to increase habitat for threatened species
- planting saltbush for stock fodder

Successful landholders have been notified and almost all should have received their funding agreements by now.

Our project officers will be there to support landholders for the duration of their projects.

Swan River Goby

During the recent studies carried out on the Hotham and Williams Rivers, it appears that secondary salinity of waterways is the main factor affecting overall condition.

This is reflected in the tolerances and ranges of aquatic fauna including the Swan River Goby, or *Pseudogobius olorum*. This native species is a very specific yardstick for salinity levels, not because it disappears when salinity increases, but in fact it inhabits an area which has changed from freshwater to saline. Therefore, its presence further and further inland is directly related to the salinisation of inland river systems. The Swan River Goby can also tolerate extreme temperatures, and has a fast reproductive cycle, living for about a year and becoming sexually mature once they have attained 25 mm total length at five to seven months of age (Gill et al. 1996). It is amazing to think that their ability to reproduce and travel has taken them all the way to the Hotham River Nature Reserve, which is 185km from Mandurah!



Photo of a fyke net set up in the Hotham River for survey of fish species



Photo of Swan River Goby, courtesy of Wetland Research & Management

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.

Coming Up...

- **Numbat Dig ID Workshop** in Dryandra Woodland for Farmers for Fauna landholders – 13th November
- **Pest Control & Bushland Management Workshop** – early 2021
- **Spiny Rush (*Juncus acutus*) control** demonstration site – early 2021



melanie.durack@peel-harvey.org.au

www.peel-harvey.org.au

