

Landcare matters

Hotham-Williams sub-catchment update



PHCC Working Together
Peel-Harvey Catchment Council

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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.



How to find Numbats in your Neighbourhood...

Through our Numbat Neighbourhood Project we have been working in collaboration with Tangents TV to create a video to help landholders determine if they have numbats living in their on-farm habitat. To view the video please go to the Peel-Harvey Catchment Council's Youtube channel.

As the numbat population increases numbats will start to move out of Dryandra Woodland and into on-farm habitat. We had a report from a Wandering local who saw a numbat by their front gate! The 'How to Find Numbats in Your Neighbourhood' video will help landholders to identify numbat traces including digs and scats and apply this knowledge to determine if they have numbats in their own on-farm vegetation. The video also helps landholders to

identify echidna and woylie diggings and scats.

Tamara Wilkes-Jones, who features in the video, has years of experience identifying fauna traces after being involved in the annual Numbat Dig survey in Dryandra Woodland and the Boyagin Nature Reserve. Tamara has helped PHCC deliver a Numbat Dig ID Workshop for the past two years, which has been well supported by local landholders and it is great that this information has been captured and can be accessed by all of the landholders surrounding Dryandra.

We've also created a shorter video to raise awareness of numbats, their threats and how PHCC is working with project partners and the community to ensure that the trajectory of the numbat population in Dryandra Woodland improves.



Numbat in Dryandra Woodland
Photo credit: Lyn Alcock

Cockatoo signs to prevent vehicle strikes



Death or injury by vehicle strike is a very real threat to our iconic Black Cockatoos.

Black Cockatoos come to the ground on the side of roads to feed on seeds and drink from puddles after rain. As they are a large bird with big wings they need lots of space and time to take off, putting them in the path of vehicles.

We ask motorists to safely slow down when you see Black Cockatoos on or near the road, to reduce the likelihood of vehicle strike, by allowing the birds time to fly out of the way.

Signs are being placed on roadsides within the Shire of Boddington at Black Cockatoo feeding and drinking hotspots by Friends of the Reserves - Boddington (Inc.) volunteers, to remind motorists to slow down. There have been several recent Black

Cockatoos deaths by vehicle strike in the area.

All three species of Black Cockatoo (Forest Red-Tailed, Baudin's and Carnaby's) are threatened so any death is a blow to the survival prospects of the species.

If you come across an injured bird please phone Kaarakin on 9390 2288 or Wildcare on 9474 9055 to locate your nearest wildlife rehabilitator, or alternatively take it to the nearest vet if safe to do so. Cover the bird with a towel or something similar and place in a ventilated box if possible. Remember your safety on the road is priority.

Our Black Cockatoo project is supported through funding from the Australian Government's Environmental Restoration Fund.

Friends of the Reserves - Boddington (Inc.) members Ros Thomson and Robin Andersson with the new signs sponsored by PHCC

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Restoring Tunbridge Gully

The native species are making a comeback in Tunbridge Gully!

The Tunbridge Gully restoration project in Boddington is showing great signs of success with the new seedlings planted over the last few years dominating throughout the area. This joint project between South32, the PHCC, Friends of the Reserves - Boddington (Inc.), Boddington District High School, Newmont Australia and the Shire of Boddington aims to restore the natural ecosystem and improve water quality through the removal of the invasive weed *Juncus acutus* (Spiny rush) and planting of native seedlings.

The first round of weed spraying was undertaken in 2017, followed by cool burn in 2018 to assist with the control of the invasive weed. Since then an annual spraying program has occurred to have maximum effect on the weeds. The 7ha area has seen over 22,000 seedlings planted, which have been a mixture of trees, shrubs and understory species. This has all been possible through a massive 415 volunteer hours that have occurred to date by the amazing Boddington District High School students and other Hotham-Williams volunteers through our annual community planting events.

These combined activities along the creekline from the Boddington town dam site through to the Hotham River foreshore are proving fruitful with recent weed survey results showing a decline in *Juncus acutus* area from 5.84 hectares in 2015 to only 1.98 hectares in December 2020 (Mattiske Consulting, 2021). The two weed species most prevalent were *Juncus acutus* and *Asparagus asparagoides* (Bridal Creeper).

As native vegetation grows and creates a canopy across the creekline, *Juncus acutus* will

continue to decline. Ongoing yearly ecological and photo monitoring will be conducted by PHCC and volunteers throughout the area to track the success of this program.

This project is coordinated by Peel-Harvey Catchment Council through funding South32 Worsley Alumina, and in partnership with Friends of the Reserves - Boddington (Inc.), Boddington District High School, Newmont Australia and the Shire of Boddington.



Tunbridge Gully 2016



Tunbridge Gully 2021

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...

- Proposed road show to seek feedback on River Action Plan priority site plans 19th – 22nd May (TBC)
- If you are interested in completing your Auschem accreditation please contact Christine via email christine.townsend@peel-harvey.org.au or call 6369 8801
- If you would like to borrow a cat trap or complete your 1080 accreditation please contact Christine via the contact details above.

Workshops

- Numbat Incursion Pingelly School
- *Juncus acutus* information session
- Tunbridge Gully planting day with the Boddington District High School

Do you have an NRM event or information you would like us to promote?

Please contact Christine Townsend at christine.townsend@peel-harvey.org.au or 0455 166 780 or 6369 8801