

# Landcare matters

Lake Clifton Sub-catchment

Edition 14  
September 2021

Welcome to Landcare Matters: Newsletter of the Lake Clifton Stewardship Program – a program supporting landowners for healthy habitats and waterways in the Lake Clifton catchment.

## 2021 Lake Clifton Seedling Giveaway

Another successful Lake Clifton Seedling Giveaway was held on the 13th June, delivered in partnership with the Banksia Woodlands and Ramsar On-grounds projects.

72 Landholders representing 48 properties were involved, and a total of 1500 seedlings provided to landholders.

The format for this was a series of presentations, morning tea, planting demonstration, landholder seedling giveaway. The 4 presentations included an overview of the Banksia

Woodlands, Lake Clifton Stewardship Program and Land for Wildlife by PHCC's new Coordinator, Land Conservation, Karen Bettink and PHCC's Ramsar On-ground Works project was presented by Mike Griffiths. An update on rabbit control methods was provided by the Peel Harvey Biosecurity Group and an update on the Lake Clifton Residents Association and Landcare was presented by Jenny Rose.

A giveaway will be held again in 2022, with any ideas for format and presentations welcome.



## Be on the lookout for... Myrtle Rust



Image: Myrtle rust on Agonis 'After Dark'.  
(©2021 Louise Morin CSIRO)

Myrtle rust is a nasty plant pathogen that we do not have and do not want in WA. It arrived in Australia in 2010 and since then has spread to all other States and Territories except SA and WA. Spring is the perfect time for it to show up with its 'high-viz' spores. The bright yellow (rarely yellow-orange) masses of spores are a distinguishing feature of myrtle rust. Myrtle rust attacks plants from the Myrtaceae family and WA is home to over 1,800 native myrtaceous taxa. The Myrtaceae family contains many iconic and ecologically important species including Eucalypts and paperbarks, bottlebrushes and peppermint trees, to name just a few.

The Lake Clifton-Herron area has many of these susceptible plants, so knowing how to identify, prevent and report Myrtle Rust if you find it is important for local landholders. For more information see <https://www.dbca.wa.gov.au/parks-and-wildlife-service/threat-management/plant-diseases/myrtle-rust>

## Lake Clifton-Herron Stewardship Program support to continue

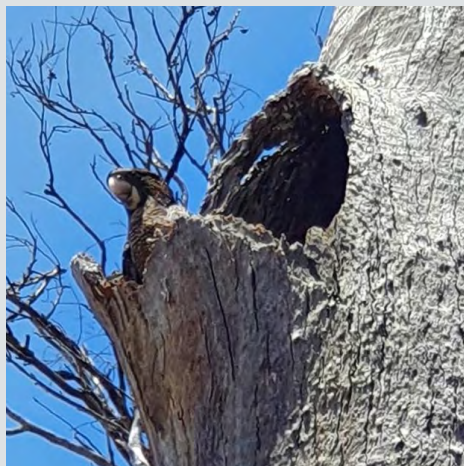
The Shire of Waroona have just signed off on a further 5 years partnership funding for the Stewardship Program in addition to the City of Mandurah's funding. This ongoing commitment means we can continue to support local landowners to manage and

improve biodiverse and unique local natural habitats, including health of the Critically Endangered thrombolites, through annual seedling giveaways, events, advice, community grants and delivery of Land for Wildlife.



### Prospecting for “Golden” Hollows

‘Tis the season for prospecting, for commodities richer than gold. When Black Cockatoos go searching, for hollows large and old.



So what are the nest requirements for Black Cockatoos and how do I know they are prospecting?

A good nesting tree is:

- Predominantly Marri, Wandoo, Salmon-Gum, Karri or Tuart
- Ancient (>150 years old)
- Diameter greater than 50cm
- Senescent, with an almost vertical hollow, entrance wider than 15cm
- Adequate food plants within 6-12km and water within 2km

How do you know when they are nesting?

- September to January is the approximate nesting window for Carnaby’s, although Forest red-tails can breed all year round.

- When looking for a suitable nest, birds will be seen in pairs, and you may see one of the pair sitting alone on a branch near the entry of a potential hollow, while the other inspects the hollow.
- The female may chew around the rim and enter and leave the hollow.
- Once an egg/s is laid and whilst the chick is young, the female will stay mostly on the nest, leaving only a couple of times a day to be fed by her male and drink.

If you do observe any of the above behaviours please get in touch with our Black Cockatoo Project Officer Megan LeRoy via email [megan.leroy@peel-harvey.org.au](mailto:megan.leroy@peel-harvey.org.au) or phone 6369 8800. Megan can come and confirm nesting and may be able to use a telescopic camera to look in the hollow.

If you are interested in helping Black Cockatoos through fencing habitat, revegetation with food plants such as marri, jarrah, wandoo, sheoak, banksia and hakea, weed control, a cockatube or you are concerned about a nest of European bees taking over cockatoo hollows and are a Land for Wildlife member you can apply for a Lake Clifton Stewardship Grant for between \$250 to \$1000 are available. For more information phone 6369 8800.

*PHCC’s Black Cockatoo project is supported by the Peel-Harvey Catchment Council through funding from the Australian Government’s Environmental Restoration Fund.*

### Lake Clifton-Herron Landcare Group Update

By Jenny Rose

The Lake Clifton-Herron Landcare Group (LCHLG) has started a new planting in an area previously re-vegetated. This planting is in an area within Yalgorup National Park, south of the Thrombolites and is to be the start of creating an Arboretum/ Showcase of local native plants.

This year’s planting has gone well, and future plantings will help fill in spaces and under storey.

The planting contractor we used is Growing Toward Wellness, who the LCHLG has employed for many years for its re-vegetation projects. This group comprised of a supervised group of psychiatric hospital outpatients from Rockingham and Bunbury hospitals. It provides us with cost effective planting and socialisation and skill development for the participants. It has been a very successful collaboration.

Bio-degradable coreflutes have been trialled. They are expected to degrade in about two years and are safe for the environment.



Keep an eye on our social media pages and website...[www.peel-harvey.org.au](http://www.peel-harvey.org.au)

### Peppermint tree decline

Are you in the Lake Clifton-Herron-Dawesville area and noticed native peppermint trees (*Agonis flexuosa*) unhealthy or dying?

A sampling program of affected trees in the area is being investigated to better understand the causes and ways this can be managed into the future. For more details please contact 6369 8800.

*Image: Agonis flexuosa (©Robert Perry)*

