

Landcare matters

Hotham-Williams sub-catchment update



PHCC Working Together
Peel-Harvey Catchment Council

Edition 58
October 2021



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.



Welcome Kristy

We are delighted to welcome Kristy Gregory to the PHCC team. Kristy has been appointed to our newly created role as Coordinator, River Restoration for the Hotham-Williams subcatchment.

Kristy will be coordinating planning for river restoration works at up to 8 sites across the Hotham and Williams Rivers with implementation of works at 4 sites by June 2025.

Kristy will be based in our Boddington office mostly, while also providing support across our catchment for monitoring and

evaluation of other projects.

Welcome aboard Kristy!

This position is funded through partnerships with both South32 Worsley Alumina and Newmont Australia (Boddington).



CEG Updates...

2021/2022 Community Environment Grant Applications have now been presented to the assesment panel to be reviewed on their merits against criteria to meet Australian Governmnet outcomes, for access to a limited pool of funds.

There were a total of 41 applications across the Peel-Harvey Catchment with 25 of these being for projects within the Hotham-Williams Sub-catchment.

Applicants will soon be notified if their project was successful.

The PHCC team have also been out and about visiting CEG projects from 2020/2021.

Cotton Bush Control Worth The Effort

Narrow-leaved Cotton Bush is a Declared Weed and has a significant impact of farm production and animal health.

This time of the year pods are forming on this small shrub, with the potential for thousands of air-bore seeds moving onto surrounding land.

Finding Cotton Bush infestation now and scheduling control (physical or chemical) will reduce the chance of this weed establishing on your property.

Cotton bush invades pastures and can form dense thickets many hectares in size if left uncontrolled. It is toxic to livestock and although rarely eaten can be fatal if it is.

Areas with mature infestations of cotton bush can be permanently unavailable for agriculture, costly to remove and become a reservoir

of wind-dispersed seed that can invade nearby pastures.

Early identification and control is essential. For more information about control methods see <https://www.agric.wa.gov.au/declared-plants/narrow-leaf-cotton-bush-declared-pest>



Narrow leaf cotton bush (Gomphocarpus fruticosus)

Potential Risk to Carnaby's

Mouse numbers are forecast to reach plague proportions in some parts of WA.

As you may have seen on the ABC recently to minimise mouse impacts some landholders are turning to broadscale aerial spread posioned grain (treated with a first generation rodenticide with zinc phosphide).

Although we've been advised the risks of secondary posioning are low, direct ingestion of treated grain could cause ill effects for birds. Carnaby's are known to feed on canola both before and after harvesting, feeding on the ground, leaving them open to risk of direct ingestion.

Please be vigilant and if you do see any sick or dead Carnaby's report to Perth Zoo (9474 0444) or BirdLife (9383 7749) ASAP.

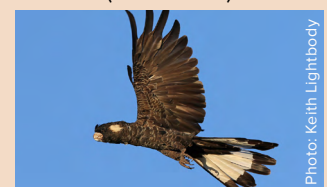


Photo: Keith Lightbody

Landcare matters

Hotham-Williams sub-catchment update

Hotham River Highest July Streamflow in 20 years

Wow, that was a wet winter! In fact, this July was the wettest month since 2016, with rainfall 7% above the 1961-1990 July average for Western Australia as a whole, according to the Bureau of Meteorology.

A rainfall and streamflow summary issued by the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation stated that the Hotham River had its highest recorded streamflow for July in over 20 years.

Photos of proposed project sites from the Hotham-Williams River Action Plan were sent to



PHCC by members of the community, showing just how far the Rivers expanded during the peak rainfall episodes.

The photos were a great illustration of how our rivers would have once naturally moved and changed shape and location from season to season before our modern landscape and infrastructure tended to encourage them to follow a set 'path'.



Red-Tailed Phascogale Nest Boxes

Recently PHCC team members conducted monitoring of 8 red-tailed phascogale nest boxes, these are located in Dryandra Woodland, East Yornaning Reserve and on private property.

Although we didn't see any red-tailed phascogales, we did see a small amount of nesting material which has given us hope for next year.

Excitingly we have also been receiving several reports from landholders who have seen both red-tailed and brush-tailed phascogales on their properties.

Thank you to our dedicated volunteers Victoria and Sierra for their help!



Volunteers Sierra and Victoria

If you are interested in becoming a PHCC volunteer please contact Nicole Ramsay in our Boddington office on 6369 8801. You can also visit our website: <https://peel-harvey.org.au/get-involved/volunteer-with-us/>

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...

Up coming Events:

- Boddington District High School Numbat Incursion – Date to be confirmed
- Numbat Dig ID Workshop – Friday 12th November
Details to follow
- Wetlands Weekender Festival 8th to 10th October
<https://peel-harvey.org.au/wetlands-weekender/>
- Lake McLarty Open Day – Saturday 16th October
<https://peel-harvey.org.au/events/lake-mclarty-open-day/>

What's happening:

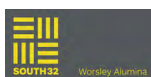
- Bridal Creeper Spraying within the Boddington Shire (State NRM Grant)
- Black Cockatoo breeding site field work with Birdlife WA (if you think you have Black Cockatoos nesting on your property please let us know)

Do you need assistance with feral animal control?
Contact us regarding:

- 1080 training and assistance with baits
- Loaning cage traps

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

Please contact us on 6369 8801 or 0455 166 780



nicole.ramsay@peel-harvey.org.au
www.peel-harvey.org.au

