

# Landcare matters

## Hotham-Williams sub-catchment update



PHCC Working Together  
Peel-Harvey Catchment Council

Edition 67  
August 2022



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.



## Tunbridge Gully Planting Day

What a fantastic turnout of Volunteers we had this year to assist with the annual Tunbridge Gully planting. Thank you to the 78 volunteers from Boddington District High School, South32 Worsley Alumina, Newmont Australia, Shire of Boddington and Friends of the Reserves - Boddington (Inc). A huge thank you to Local Elder, Greg Thorne for his Welcome to Country at the commencement of the planting and three cheers to the BDHS P&C for the best sausage sizzle!



Harry, Christine and Noah

Older seedlings are now towering over the Year 5 & 6 students and the *Juncus acutus* (Spiny rush) is few and far between. Restoration of the native vegetation is well underway and is improving the waterway and water quality within our ecosystem.

A variety of 21 species were planted this year including those in the Genera of *Acacia*, *Banksia*, *Callistemon*, *Calothamnus*, *Casuarina*, *Eucalyptus*, *Hakea*, *Kennedia*, *Kunzea* and *Melaleuca*.



Ray Farmer and Greg Marston

## Dryandra Woonta Felixer Workshop

Local landholders recently attended a workshop in Dryandra Woodland to learn about PHCC's Dryandra Woonta Project which includes the first Wheatbelt trial of the Felixer™ cat grooming trap.

Guest speakers included Travis (Jock) Abraham, Wilman Noongar Elder, who welcomed attendees to country. Dr Karen Bettink (PHCC) gave an overview of the Dryandra Woonta Project which will include a non-toxic trial of the Felixer™ on private property surrounding Dryandra Woodland and other targeted feral cat, fox and pig control to reduce threats to numbats and chuditch. Dr Judy Dunlop (WA Feral Cat Working Group), who has previously trialed the Felixer™ in the Pilbara, shared her knowledge and demonstrated how the Felixer™ identifies cats as a target animal. John Read (Thylation), who invented

the Felixer, spoke to landholders via a prerecording about how Thylation took advantage of cats natural grooming behaviour to develop the Felixer™ which uses rangefinder sensors to distinguish target cats and foxes from non-target wildlife and spray targets with a measured dose of toxic 1080 gel. The Felixer™ is solar powered and photographs all animals detected. Attendees then enjoyed a demonstration and got to hear some of the audio lures used attract the feral cats. Thank you to all who attended the workshop.



## Talkin' Soil Health

One of Australia's largest and most reputable soil health conferences, Talkin' Soil Health, is returning to York on **Thursday, 11 August** and will be jam-packed with national and local speakers and presenters from DPIRD, UWA, CSIRO, Soil CRC and local farmers.

The event is hosted by Wheatbelt NRM, with the theme, "Building Resilience from the Subsoil Up" and will bring together farmers, researchers and industry professionals to provide practical tools and advice that farmers can use to build resilient soils.

Plus, join us in the evening for a cocktail dinner and the announcement of our Soil Health Champions!



Talkin' Soil Health



## Talkin' Soil Health Conference

Building Resilience From The Subsoil Up

Talkin' Soil Health, one of Australia's premier soil health conferences, is returning to historic York.

Join us to hear from renowned speakers and farmers sharing practice and evidence based initiatives that shine a spotlight on the theme "Building Resilience from the Subsoil Up". This event will provide an opportunity to hear from farmers about how they are making changes to their farming systems. Gain a better understanding of the science behind building the health, resistance and resilience of our soil.

Plus join us in the evening for a cocktail dinner to celebrate your regional Soil Health Champions!

11 August 2022

York Racecourse, York, Western Australia

Hosted by ABC's WA Country Hour Presenter, Belinda Varischetti



Tickets are on sale now! Visit our website [soilhealth.com.au](http://soilhealth.com.au) or scan the QR code for more information or to get your tickets.

Reserve your tickets or find out more here: <https://www.soilhealth.com.au/>



# Landcare matters

Hotham-Williams sub-catchment update



## Carnaby's Black Cockatoos' Flying East

With nesting season soon upon us you may notice the return of Carnaby Black Cockatoos to the eastern parts of the catchment.

Returning from their winter feeding grounds on the Swan Coastal Plain, many Carnaby's head east to nest in wheatbelt areas in large ancient hollow bearing trees such as salmon gum and wandoo.

Generally they will migrate in pairs in late winter/spring and can travel 150km to the breeding sites where the female hatched. Once arriving they will prospect for suitable hollows. Indicative prospecting behaviour includes chewing or chipping around the edges of hollows and entering and existing hollows in pairs. The older/dominant pairs will get the best hollows with the younger pairs getting seconds which are generally less successful at raising a chick.

The female will lay two eggs with normally only one surviving. The egg will be incubated for 30 days, then the chick will hatch and grow for another 70 days before fledging (leaving the nest). It is critical that a fresh water supply is available within 2km of the nest, and enough food within 6-12 km.

Flocks of males will travel to find food for the females and their chicks, returning

mid-morning and late afternoon to feed them. The female will leave the nest to have a drink and be fed by the male. She will spend less time in the nest as the chick grows.

If you see pairs of Black Cockatoos, see which direction they are flying and where they land, and if you think you've discovered a breeding hollow please notify Megan LeRoy on [megan.leroy@peel-harvey.org.au](mailto:megan.leroy@peel-harvey.org.au) or 6369 8800.



More information on Carnaby's on your farm, can be found here: <https://birdlife.org.au/documents/CBC-carnabys-and-farms-2013.pdf>

**COVID-19** We value the health and safety of our whole community. Where possible please contact us to make a booking via phone on 6369 8801 or 0455 166 780 or via email.

## Volunteer with us...

Caring for our catchment is a huge task. If you would like to help in any way - from planting trees, assisting at events or monitoring projects - please contact us, we would love to hear from you.

<https://peel-harvey.org.au/get-involved/volunteer-with-us/>

## Have your say:

South32 Worsley Mine Expansion proposal update. You have until **Monday, 15 August 2022** to have your say.

<https://peel-harvey.org.au/south-32-per/>

## What's been happening:

The Australia State of Environment Report has been released and urgent action is needed to reverse the alarming trends in biodiversity loss and climate change.

We continue to work with the community to improve the health of the catchment including the land, waters and species within it and we encourage everyone to continue to do great environmental work in their patch which supports our vision. Read the report here <https://soe.dcceew.gov.au>

For more info on PHCC's vision and projects visit [www.peel-harvey.org.au](http://www.peel-harvey.org.au)

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

Please contact us on 6369 8801 or 0455 166 780



## Introducing Victoria

Please join us in welcoming Victoria Brockhurst who has joined the PHCC team as the Administration Officer (Hotham-Williams).

Victoria has been a volunteer with PHCC for the past 2 years and is so happy to be working with such an incredible community.



victoria.brockhurst@peel-harvey.org.au  
[www.peel-harvey.org.au](http://www.peel-harvey.org.au)

