

# Landcare matters

Hotham-Williams sub-catchment update



PHCC Working Together  
Peel-Harvey Catchment Council

Edition 68  
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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.



## Happy and healthy times in store for the Williams River in Quindanning

Quindanning is thought to be derived from 'Quinda' which is the Noongar word for Happy Times. We think it is rather fitting, given that a 2.3km stretch of the Williams River running through the townsite is earmarked for on-ground restoration projects under the Hotham-Williams River Action Plan (RAP).

Quindanning is nestled amongst a landscape rich with Noongar history. Nearby sites of significance include artefact scatters, a quarry, built structures and burial grounds. The most intriguing is the nearby Mythological site of Mokine (Mount Saddleback), which was created by a female Rainbow Serpent, the Waugal after forging the Hotham River, which merges with the Williams River downstream of Quindanning.

If you visit Williams River in Quindanning now, it is overlooked by

the historic Quindanning Hotel and is the site of a very early crossing, likely to be a stone ford close to where the bridge is today. There was also a Quindanning Pool, although the exact location is unclear due to a modified channel structure over time.

The RAP site is characterised by an altered vegetation structure exacerbated by numerous weed species, which currently dominate the understorey. Recent site visits have revealed some hidden gems amongst the weeds, including thick beds of *Sporobolus virginicus* (native couch), islands of *Juncus subsecundus* (sedges) and carpets of *Centella asiatica* (penny wort) as pictured. Weed control will be the main restoration tool which will be used to give these native species a chance to restore, occupying the spaces that the weeds have previously and

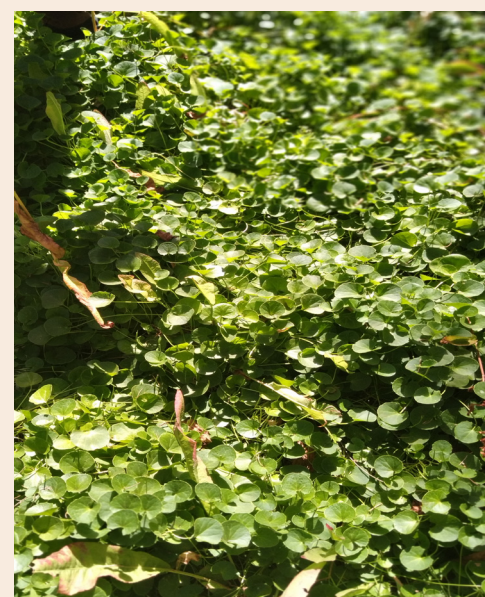
acting like a green mulch against future weed incursions. This will increase over time, although some areas will be identified as needing direct revegetation with native seedlings. We will liaise with the local community in these rehabilitation activities working closely with the Shire of Boddington, Shire of Williams, Main Roads and local landholders.



*Juncus subsecundus* (Native sedge)



*Sporobolus virginicus* (Native couch)



*Centella asiatica* (Penny wort)

(Historic and cultural information in this article is sourced from the Heritage Council of WA website and Goode et al 2020 Aboriginal Heritage Assessment for the Worsley Alumina Mining Expansion)

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## Greening Farms Fencing and Saltbush Planting project completed

Back in August 2021 Neil and Maree Batterbee from Quindanning applied for PHCC's Community Environmental Grants to fence some Wandoo (*Eucalyptus wandoo*) ridges and low-lying areas on their property and plant saltbush to increase the productivity of their lower paddocks.

Last month they officially completed their project and were lucky enough to host two Australian Government representatives from the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF), the source of the funding for the Greening Farms program coordinated by the PHCC.



Rosalind Brown (DAFF) with Neil and Maree Batterbee and Mick Davis (PHCC)

## Coming Up...

### Up coming Events

#### Woodlands for Wildlife Workshop with Simon Cherriman

Date: 14th October 2022

Place: Dryandra Hall

Time: 12.00pm to 3.30pm

#### Weed Identification and Control Workshop

Date: 21st October 2022

Place: Williams Woolshed

Time: 10.30am to 12.30pm

And

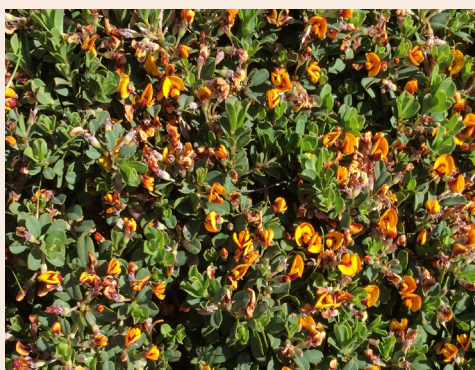
Place: Boddington CRC

Time: 2.00pm to 4.00pm

Visit [peel-harvey.org.au/events](https://peel-harvey.org.au/events) to register!

## Camballing Reserve

Another little gem in our community is the Camballing Reserve, west of Boddington Town site, along the Hotham River. The Reserve is home to the amazing *Gastrolobium Sp.* Prostrate Boddington aka the Boddington Mat Plant, a Priority 1 flora species (below).



With funding received from the State Natural Resource Management Program WA, the Friends of the Reserves - Boddington (Inc.) (FoTR) and PHCC have worked together to control *Asparagus asparagoides* (Bridal Creeper), the highly invasive weed that smothers native vegetation.

Planting at the reserve was recently undertaken which included seedlings of *Callistemon phoeniceus*, *Calothamnus quadrifidus*, *Hakea prostrata*, *Kennedia coccinea*, *Kunzea recurva* and *Corymbia calophylla*. The area that was planted is naturally regenerating with the mat plant and the addition of more native species will help with ongoing weed suppression.

The welcome rain events this season unfortunately also brings the unwanted weeds including Bridal Creeper!

FoTR and PHCC have recently conducted a weed survey throughout the Camballing Reserve. Germinating plants have been mapped with GPS locations and this will be used by the weed control contractor who will be conducting spraying early September in the reserve and surrounding road reserves.

Controlling this highly invasive weed, will assist the native species that are naturally regenerating in the remnant bushland.

### What's happening



Caroline, Isabelle and Genevieve who recently helped Christine monitor a Red-tailed Phascogale nest box.

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

- 1080 training and assistance with baits
- Loaning cage traps

Contact us on 6369 8801 or 0455 166 780



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