

# Landcare matters

Hotham-Williams sub-catchment update



**PHCC** Working Together  
Peel-Harvey Catchment Council

Edition 71  
December 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.



## Popanyinning – Hard to say, nice to stay!

The small town of Popanyinning is close to the eastern extent of the Peel-Harvey Catchment and home to one of eight Hotham-Williams River Action Plan (RAP) sites which we have been introducing you to in recent months.

The Hotham River is located between the township to the west and small rural landholdings to the east, in turn bound by broad scale agricultural land in the surrounding landscape. The RAP site spans 1.2km along the River and is characterised by a narrow meandering channel form, scattered tree species and a sparse native shrub layer intermingled with both exotic and native grasses. A large pool existed on the Hotham River close to where the town is now situated, and according to the WA Heritage Committee, the original name of ‘Popaning’ is a representation of the word for waterhole in the Noongar language.

Weed control has recently been carried out at the site to target bridal creeper and other timely weeds within the area earmarked for strategic effort this season and the use of an all-terrain vehicle by Nexxial Ecology meant that we were not restricted by site conditions. The Popanyinning Progress Association has been working in natural areas along the River for many years, and some of them met with Nexxial Ecology on-site to get the lowdown on the latest control methods for bridal creeper. The group is assisting in an area where they have previously concentrated their efforts, putting a significant dent in the population of this troublesome weed.

By seeking additional funding and partnerships, PHCC would like to increase the scope of weed control efforts in future seasons to assist the natural regeneration of existing native species at the site, including grasses and orchids.



*Tim from Nexxial Ecology and PPA members*



*Spider orchid spp.*

*Photo by Tim Heckler*

All the staff at PHCC wish you a very Merry Christmas and a safe and happy New Year



# Landcare matters

Hotham-Williams sub-catchment update

## Another successful season of Carnaby breeding

**Carnaby pairs return to nest in Mandurah and Lake Clifton**

In 2021 with the addition of cockatubes on private property we saw an increase in the number of breeding pairs of Carnaby's Black Cockatoos. Recent surveys have seen the same number of pairs of Carnaby's return to known breeding hollows in Mandurah (5 pairs) and Lake Clifton (2 pairs).

Whilst artificial nest tubes placed in the correct locations can provide fantastic alternative breeding hollows they do have their limitations, such as needing to be regularly maintained and monitored. The retention of natural tree hollows is undeniably paramount in preventing a decline in Black Cockatoo populations.

Natural breeding hollows are often found in trees upwards of 150 years old, and with age comes significant risk of collapse. We not only need to protect these veteran trees to keep them upright in the landscape for as long as possible, but also protect the next generation of trees, that will hollow out in time to replace their grandfathers.

You can help by retaining all large trees, fencing trees from stock, and planting small shrubs and ground covers to protect roots, provide ideal soil conditions and avoid compaction.

For more information on protecting your bush for Black Cockatoos click here: <https://www.birdlife.org.au/documents/swbc-BCs-and-your-property.pdf>



## Coming up....

Up coming events:

**WA Feral Cat Symposium**  
13 - 16 February 2023

Register your interest or for more information visit <https://wafcw.org.au/2023-feral-cat-symposium/>

**WA Feral Cat SYMPOSIUM 2**  
Save the Date  
February 13-16

**Event Details**  
DATE: 13 - 16 February 2023  
LOCATION: UMA Club, Hackett Drive, Crawley Western Australia  
MON 13: Registration & Sundowner  
TUE 14: Symposium  
WED 15: Symposium  
THU 16: Field Trip - Dryandra

**Theme**  
Progress with meaningful, on-ground work on feral cats, to benefit our native species

**Objectives**

- Increase participants' knowledge of management options for management of feral cats
- Celebrate and share successes so that more stakeholders can be empowered to take action
- Share the latest research of what is successful, and upcoming techniques

**Key Topics**

- On-ground stories of challenges and success
- New and emerging techniques
- Social license and community engagement
- Indigenous Ranger work on Country
- Local council cat laws and wildlife protection

[wafcw.org.au/2023-feral-cat-symposium](https://wafcw.org.au/2023-feral-cat-symposium)

## PHCC Christmas and New Year office hours:

Please note that the office will be closed from Monday 26 December, reopening on Monday 9 January

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

- 1080 training and assistance with baits
- Loaning cage traps