

# Landcare matters

Lake Clifton Sub-catchment



Edition 24  
March 2025

Welcome to the 24th edition of Landcare Matters: Newsletter of the Lake Clifton Stewardship Program – a program supporting landowners for healthy habitats and waterways in the Lake Clifton sub-catchment.

## Exploration Surveys for White-tailed Black Cockatoos

PHCC staff, volunteers and Birdlife Australian have been busy undertaking Exploration Surveys for White-tailed Black Cockatoos, including Carnaby (vulnerable) and Baudin's (threatened) Black Cockatoos, across the Swan Coastal Plain and Hotham-Williams.

The population of White-tailed Black Cockatoos has significantly declined because of habitat degradation, removing nesting hollows and food resources. While the distribution of breeding and roost sites for Black Cockatoos across the Swan Coastal Plain is relatively well surveyed and mapped, there have been few historical surveys for sites within the Hotham-Williams sub-catchment.

When surveying the Lake Clifton area, we were feeling a little disheartened after an entire day trudging through bushland with DBCA and Birdlife Australia searching for recent signs of Carnaby foraging and breeding, only to come up empty handed due to lack of good quality seed. We could hear

Carnaby's calling above, but couldn't see them. After driving around bushland following their calls, we eventually got lucky at the end of the day and found where they were all hiding! We identified another roost site within remnant bushland and pine trees, which reinforces the importance of nearby pine plantations as a food supply following years of low rainfall and poor seed supply. These surveys will also help us to understand the long-term impacts of wildfire (2016 Yarloop Fires) for Carnaby breeding and roosting.

Stay tuned for more results as we continue our Exploration Surveys at sites around the Hotham-Williams sub-catchment. We hope to find previously unidentified White-tailed Black Cockatoo breeding and roost sites around Wandering, Boddington, Dryandra and Dwellingup.

Results from these surveys will help us to develop effective and targeted projects to protect Black Cockatoos in the Peel-Harvey Catchment.



*Signs of Carnaby foraging*

*This project is funded by the Australian Government Natural Heritage Trust and delivered by PHCC, a member of the Commonwealth Regional Delivery Partners panel.*



*Searching for hollows at Dryandra with Wilman Elders and Birdlife Australia*



*Signs of Carnaby foraging*



### Keep an eye out for Polyphagous shot-hole borer

The Polyphagous Shot-Hole Borer (PSHB - *Euwallacea fornicates*), is a small beetle native to Southeast Asia. Since its detection in East Fremantle, Western Australia, in August 2021, it has posed a significant threat to local flora. By September 2024, the infestation had expanded, leading to the establishment of a quarantine area encompassing all 30 local government areas in the Perth metropolitan region.

The beetle attacks a wide variety of plant species, with over 500 documented globally, including species commonly found in Western Australia. It damages trees by tunnelling into trunks, stems, and branches, introducing a symbiotic fungus that blocks the vascular system, leading to water and nutrient deprivation.

To prevent the spread, strict regulations have been enforced within the quarantine zones. These include restrictions on moving untreated or unseasoned wood and plants with a

diameter greater than 2 cm. Residents are urged to inspect their trees for signs of infestation, such as tiny holes, wood discoloration, and dieback. See the containment zones [here](#).

Efforts to eradicate PSHB are ongoing, with significant resources allocated to monitoring and controlling the beetle's spread. What can you do to assist?

**Stay Informed:** Keep abreast of the latest information and guidelines provided by local authorities regarding PSHB.

**Inspect Your Property:** Regularly check trees for signs of infestation. Early detection can aid in effective management.

**Comply with Regulations:** Adhere to quarantine measures and restrictions to help prevent the spread of PSHB.

For more detailed information, please visit the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development's website

(DPIRD - <https://www.agric.wa.gov.au/borer>) and watch their animation video on YouTube video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hc4CZ1KdNkA&t=5s>

DPIRD will be presenting this information at our upcoming Lake Clifton Seedling Giveaway.



The Polyphagous Shot-Hole Borer. Image from DPIRD

### Fun Fact: Bird “Knees” Aren’t What You Think!

Next time you’re watching a bird walk around, sit down or take off into the sky, take a closer look at its legs. You might notice that what we often refer to as their “knee” actually bends in the opposite direction compared to ours. But here’s the surprising part: those so-called “bird knees” aren’t knees at all!

Birds walk and stand on their toes, and those toes are supported by long, slender bones that stretch well down to their feet. The true knee joint, located higher up their legs, bends just like ours

— but it’s hidden under feathers and not as easily visible.

When birds walk, they do so on their toes. This toe-walking (known as digitigrade locomotion) is what gives their legs that distinctive posture. Their feet are designed to keep their bodies balanced and agile, which is key whether they’re taking flight or landing gracefully.

So, the next time you see a bird strut by with its unique “knee” bend, you’ll have a whole new appreciation for its

anatomy—and maybe a little chuckle at how we’ve all been calling them “knees” all this time!

In the diagram below the thigh bones (femora) are all coloured red, the shin bones and proximal ankle bones are colored blue, the “foot bones” (the distal tarsals and the metatarsals) are green, and the individual toe bones are yellow.

© Scott Hartman, from <https://www.skeletaldrawing.com/home/2011/09/um-hey-scientific-american-bird-knees.html>



Image from Robert Wroth



Image from Scott Hartman

### Have you heard the cute calls of a Ringtail Possum?

If not, see this video sent in by a Lake Clifton Landholder: [Ringtail Possum Call\\_ John Woodhouse.MOV](#)

If you want to hear the cute calls of Ringtail Possums on your property, consider enhancing their native habitat. Restoration efforts for Western Ringtail Possums (*Pseudocheirus occidentalis*), a critically endangered species native to southwestern Australia, are vital for conserving their population and habitat around Lake Clifton, Herron and Dawesville. Here are some key strategies for their restoration:

#### Habitat Protection and Restoration

Western Ringtail Possums rely on old-growth forests and woodlands, particularly those with peppermint trees (*Agonis flexuosa*), their primary food source. Protecting existing habitats from logging, land clearing, and urban sprawl is critical. Habitat can be restored by replanting native vegetation, particularly peppermint trees, and ensuring the restoration of canopy cover is vital. Creating wildlife corridors to connect fragmented habitats can help provide safe passage for possums and other wildlife.

#### Managing Predation

Introduced predators like foxes, cats, and wild dogs are significant threats to Western Ringtail Possums. Predator control programs can help reduce the risk of predation. Refer to [PestSmart](#) Glovebox Guides for management tools.

#### Monitoring and Research

Ongoing monitoring of possum populations using camera traps, spotlight surveys, and radio tracking helps

researchers track their movements, health, and breeding patterns. This data can guide future conservation efforts. PHCC has fauna cameras for loan if you would like to monitor Ringtail Possums on your property.

#### Breeding and Reintroduction Programs

If population numbers decline severely, captive breeding programs could play a role in increasing numbers and maintaining genetic diversity. Did you know that most of the existing Ringtail Possum populations around Lake Clifton are a result of successful historical reintroduction programs from populations around the Bunbury regions. Reintroducing possums into areas with enhanced habitats, with improved tree cover and reduced threats, increases their chances of successful establishment.

#### Community Engagement and Education

Engaging local communities, landowners, and the public about the importance of conserving Western Ringtail Possums and their habitats is essential. Education programs can encourage people to protect habitats and report sightings.

#### Legislation and Funding

Advocating for stronger environmental protection laws and habitat conservation policies can provide legal protection for Western Ringtail Possums and their critical habitats. Restoration efforts often require significant financial resources. Securing government funding, as well as grants from conservation organisations, is vital for the ongoing success of restoration programs. Please contact PHCC if you wish to apply for funding

for Ringtail Conservation Projects where they occur within Tuart or Banksia Woodland Threatened Ecological Communities.

#### Reducing Human-Wildlife Conflict

Urban Management: As Western Ringtail Possums are often found in urban and peri-urban areas, addressing issues like car strikes, powerline collisions, and habitat fragmentation in these areas can reduce human-wildlife conflict. Implementing measures such as underpasses, wildlife crossings, and using possum-friendly powerline designs can help mitigate these risks.

The recovery of the Western Ringtail Possum requires a coordinated, multi-faceted approach combining habitat restoration, predator management, population monitoring, and community involvement.



Footage from John Woodhouse

### Dad Joke Corner

What genre at National Anthems?

Country!

What looks like half a tree?

The other half!

What do you call a spider with 10 eyes?

A spiiiiiiiiider!

Why can't a nose be 12 inches long?

Cause then it will be a foot!

### Western Ringtail Possum Count

Join the Citizen Science Tally and support the conservation of the Western Ringtail Possum.

The tally will be open from April 6 to May 4, giving participants the chance to record and submit their sightings.

If you can't join during this time, you can still make a difference by submitting any opportunistic sightings to iNaturalist at any time: [Western Ringtail Tally - Peel-Harvey Region](#)

See our events section for more details on this years Western Ringtail Possum count.



## Seedling Giveaway 2025

Our Lake Clifton Seedling Giveaway is back, so keep Saturday 24 May free in your calendar.

Following your feedback from last year's event, we will invite community stalls and a guest speaker to present on the restoration of Banksia and Tuart Woodland species. Please register at the link below, noting that this event is open only to residents from Lake Clifton and Herron.

To secure your seedlings, registration is essential: <https://www.trybooking.com/CZZXV>

A special thanks goes to StrataGreen, who have supplied take home seedling bags for landholders at this years event.



**Seedling giveaway**

PHCC  
Working Together

Join us for a fun morning at the Lake Clifton Herron community hall with interactive stalls, a guest speaker on Banksia Woodland, face painting for the kids, coffee van for the adults, and of course our native seedling giveaway!

Saturday 24 May 2025	9am - 12noon	Lake Clifton Herron Hall 114 Tuart Grove Avenue
-------------------------	--------------	--

FREE seedlings are available only to landholders in Lake Clifton-Herron, with a limit of one allocation per household. To secure your seedlings, registration is essential before 16 May.



This project is funded by the Australian Government Natural Heritage Trust and delivered by PHCC, a member of the Commonwealth Regional Delivery Partners panel. PHCC wishes to thank the Shire of Waroona for their continued support for this event.

## Meet Alice and Echo – the latest and cutest weapon to curb the spread of dieback



Phytophthora dieback, caused by the soil-borne pathogen *Phytophthora cinnamomi*, poses a significant threat to Western Australia's native flora.

To combat this issue, the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) has recently initiated a Dieback Detector Dog project. This project involves training dogs to detect the presence of the dieback pathogen, offering a rapid and non-invasive detection method.

In March 2025, DBCA announced a grant opportunity to recruit and train two dog handlers, each paired with a conservation detector dog. These dogs will be trained to identify *Phytophthora cinnamomi*, enhancing dieback detection efforts across the state. The grant is part of a broader initiative funded by the Australian Government's Saving Native Species Program, with training expertise provided by TATE Animal Training Enterprises.

Previously, in December 2024, scent-detection dogs Alice and Echo were introduced to Kings Park in Perth. These dogs underwent field testing to assess their effectiveness in various environments, including laboratories, nurseries, and natural bushland. They passed the testing with flying colours! Their training aims to improve dieback detection and inform management strategies. By identifying the pathogen's presence, these dogs help implement measures to control its spread, preserving Western Australia's unique ecosystems.

Watch Alice and Echo in action at Kings Park via this short video: Behind the scenes: [Dieback Detector Dogs visit Kings Park](#)

## Recipe: One Pot Creamy Chicken and Vegetable Risoni

This quick and easy one pot recipe is great for a nourishing mid-week meal.

Serves 4

### Ingredients:

30ml (1 ½ tablespoons) oil

1 medium onion (or leek)

2-4 cloves of garlic

500g of chicken

1 – 2 cups of fresh or frozen vegetables of choice

1 tablespoon of flour

1 packet of risoni

1 litre of chicken stock

1 cup of milk

Parmesan or cheese of choice

2 cups of baby spinach

Fresh parsley to garnish

Salt and pepper to taste



### Instructions:

Heat some oil in pan and sauté the onion & garlic until soft, then add chicken pieces until brown slightly.

Add vegetables and flour until the flour is incorporated.

Add the uncooked risoni, stock and milk and stir well.

Bring to a simmer and then adjust heat so it's bubbling gently and cook for approximately 7 minutes (with no lid), stirring every now and again to stop it sticking.

When risoni is almost tender and there is still a bit of liquid add the cheese and spinach and stir through.

The consistency should be like a loose risotto – nice and creamy. The risoni will absorb the liquid and thicken quite quickly once serving, so don't stress if it still looks more soupy than you want when you take it off the stove.

Serve, garnished with parsley and more cheese if desired.

## Results from the 2025 Shorebird Count

The 2025 Shorebird Count in Western Australia, conducted as part of BirdLife Australia's National Shorebird Monitoring Program, has provided valuable insights into the status of migratory and resident shorebird populations along the state's coast. This annual citizen science initiative engages volunteers in systematic surveys to track population trends and inform conservation efforts.

On February 2, 2025, approximately 70 volunteers participated in the count across the Peel-Yalgorup System, an internationally recognized Ramsar site encompassing 26,000 hectares. These volunteers, many of whom had completed specialised bird identification workshops, meticulously documented shorebird numbers and

species distribution within the wetlands.

The count revealed a significant decline in shorebird populations compared to historical data. In the 1980s, the Peel-Yalgorup System supported up to 150,000 water birds. Recent surveys indicate a stable population of 40,000 to 50,000 birds, highlighting a concerning decrease of approximately two-thirds over the past four decades. Similar trends were observed across other surveyed regions.

The 2025 Shorebird Count underscores the necessity for enhanced conservation measures to protect these vital habitats. Strategies may include habitat restoration, mitigation of human impacts, and international collaboration to safeguard migratory routes.

Continued monitoring is essential to inform these efforts and ensure the long-term survival of shorebird species in Western Australia.

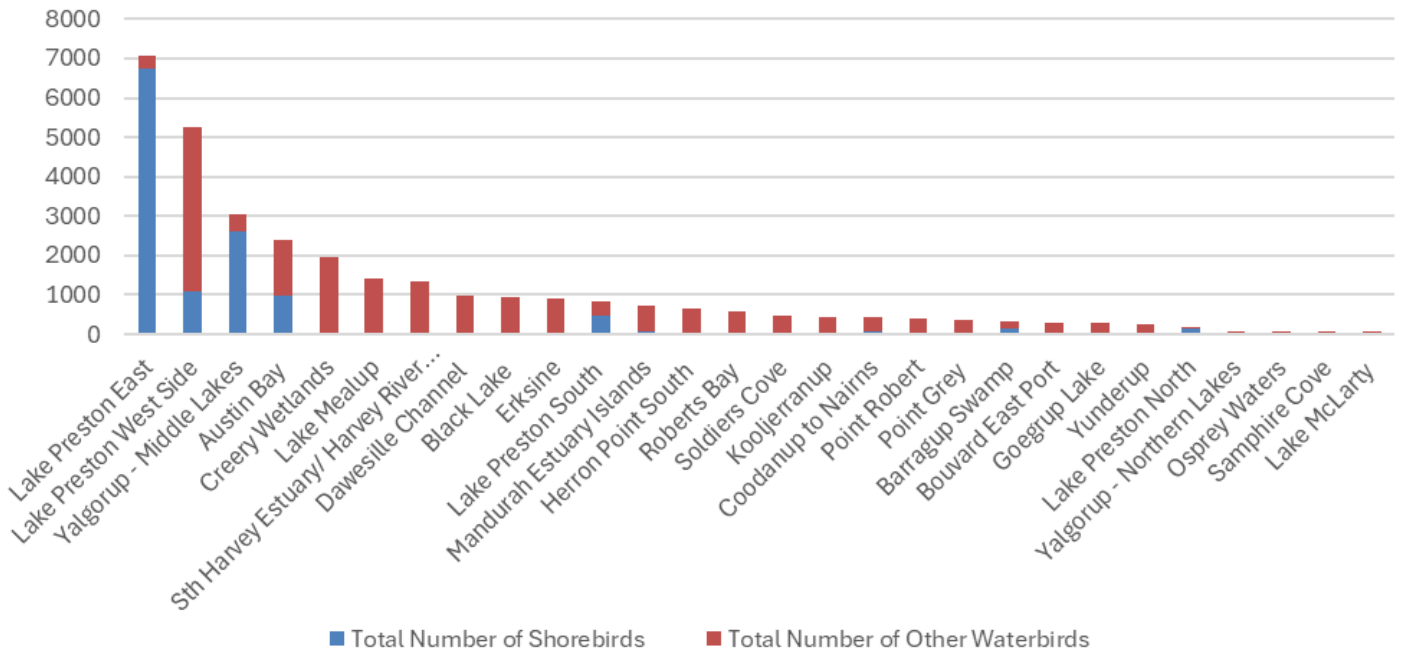
Total number of shorebirds and waterbirds recorded during the 2025 Shorebird Count are presented on the following page.

Most shorebirds were recorded at Lake Preston, Yalgorup and Austin Bay and the most common Shorebird counted was the Red-necked Stint (7,539 individuals recorded) and the Red-Capped Plover (2,570 individuals recorded).

For more information on shorebird conservation and opportunities to participate in future counts, visit BirdLife Australia's website.

## Results from the 2025 Shorebird Count

### Numbers of Shorebirds & Waterbirds Recorded at Sites in 2025



### Total Shorebirds Counted in 2025

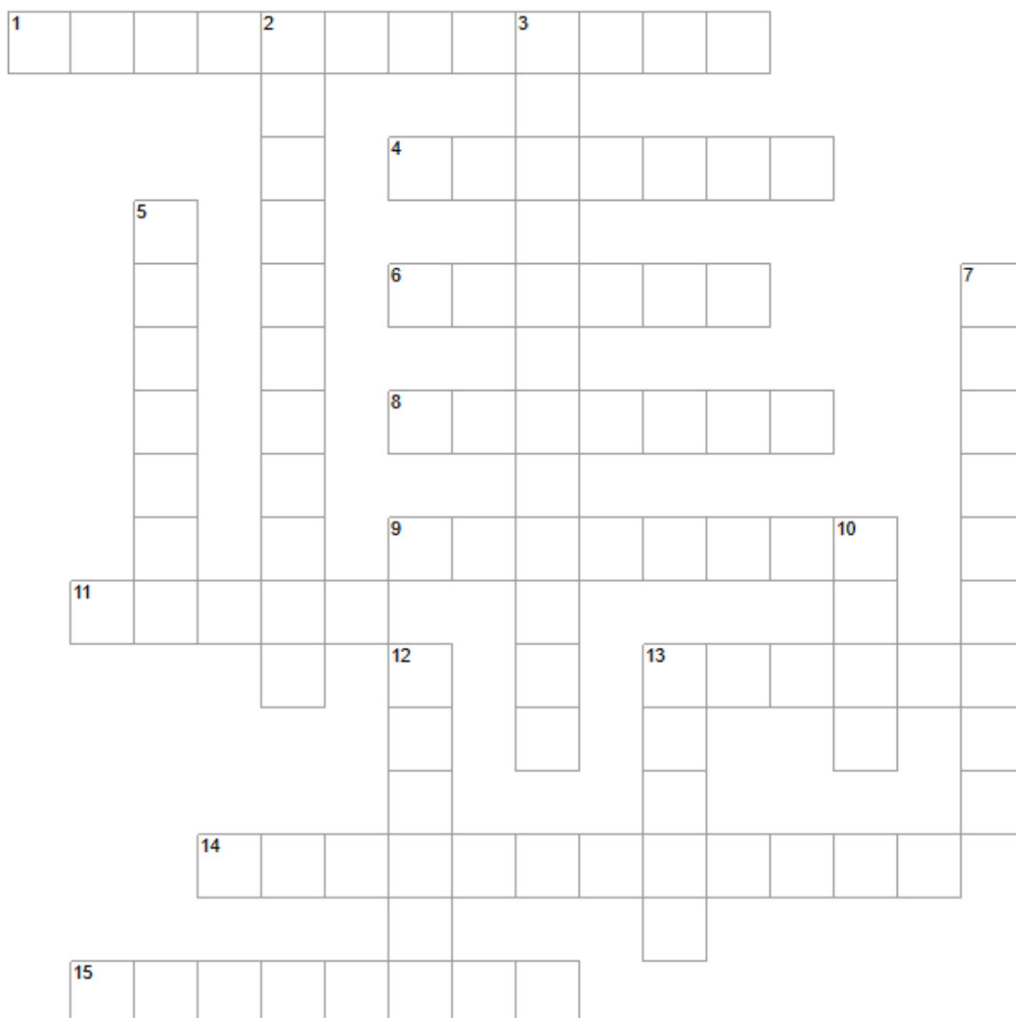


# Landcare matters

Lake Clifton Sub-catchment



## Lake Clifton Word Puzzle



### ACROSS

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| 1. Efforts to protect natural resources             | 13. Type of woodlands where black cockatoos thrive | 5. A type of tree important to black cockatoos      |
| 4. A type of black cockatoo found in West Australia | 14. The variety of life forms in an ecosystem      | 7. Community of living organisms in an area         |
| 6. International designation for important wetlands | 15. Areas that are crucial for wildlife            | 10. Region of West Australia known for its wetlands |
| 8. Living area suitable for wildlife                | <b>DOWN</b>  | 12. A species of black cockatoo                     |
| 9. The area known for its ecological richness       | 2. Natural world encompassing all living things    | 13. Plant life in a particular region               |
| 11. Animal life in a specific area                  | 3. Unique geological formations in Lake Clifton    |   |





## Events coming up...

**Mar 1 to 31 Clean Up Month.**

Various locations across the region.

Clean Up Month is in full swing! Help keep our beautiful parks and waterways clean and thriving by joining one of the many clean-up events happening throughout March.

[Find out how to organise or join a clean-up event](#)

**Mar 28 Bird Watching Outing. 7.30am.**

Island Point.

Join this monthly Mandurah Bird Observers Group outing. Everyone welcome.

BYO morning tea, chair, binoculars, camera, sunscreen, suitable footwear/clothing and insect repellent.

Enquiries: Bill Howard [bill@lastbirdstanding.com](mailto:bill@lastbirdstanding.com) Ph: 0429 829871.

**Mar 28 Sustainable Living Series – Garden to Plate. 10.00am to 11.00am.**

Meadow Sprints Sporting Facility.

[Find out more](#)

**Mar 29 BirdLife WA Morning Excursion. 8.00am - 12noon.**

Lake Mealup, Point Grey.

[Find out more](#)

**April 5 BirdLife WA Morning Excursion. 8.00am - 11.00am.**

Victoria Reservoir, Canning Mills.

[Find out more](#)

**April 3 and 4 Love the Lesch Festival. 10.00am to 3.00pm.**

Ridley Place Foreshore, Australind.

[Find our more](#)

**April 6 Great Cocky Count. Starts at 5.30pm.**

Last chance to register for the Great Cocky Count (GCC).

The GCC is a citizen-science survey, and the biggest single survey for black-cockatoos in WA.

Volunteers are needed to monitor known roost sites and count black-cockatoos as they arrive in the evening.

[Find out more and register to be involved](#)

**April 6 - May 4 Western Ringtail Possum Tally.**

Various locations

[Find out more](#)

**April 9 Grow it Yourself Workshop. 9.30am to 2.00pm.**

Mandurah Seniors & Community Centre.

Join expert horticulturist John Draper for a fun, hands-on workshop and discover the joy of growing your own vegetables!

[Find out more](#)





## Events coming up...

April 10 **BirdLife WA Morning Excursion.** 8.30am - 11.30am.

Blackwall Reach, Bicton.

[Find out more](#)

April 10 **Sustainable Living Series – Energise your Home.** 10.00am to 11.00am.

Bortolo Pavilion, Greenfields.

[Find out more](#)

April 12 **Community Turtle Monitoring Workshop.** 9.30am.

Bruce Creswell Reserve, Meadow Springs.

[Find out more](#)

April 12 **Sunrise Wildlife & Wetlands Kayaking Tour.** 6.15am.

Mandurah Bridge Carpark, Halls Head.

[Find out more](#)

April 13 **Pinjarra Markets.** 7.00am - 12noon.

Edenvale Heritage Precinct, Pinjarra.

[Find out more](#)

April 13 **Composting And Worm Farming Workshop.** 10.00am - 1.30pm.

Waroona Memorial Hall, Waroona.

[Find out more](#)

April 17 **Edible Garden Workshop.** 10.00am - 11.30am.

Waroona Memorial Hall, Waroona.

[Find out more](#)

April 15 **Earth Day.** All day.

As an individual, you yield real power and influence as a consumer, a voter, and a member of a community that can unite for change.

[Find out more](#)

April 22 **Composting And Worm Farming Workshop.** 10.30am to 2.00pm.

Preston Beach Community Centre, Preston Beach.

[Find out more](#)

April 22 **Ancient Forest & Coastal Serenity Walk.** 9.00am to 11.00am.

Seascapes Beach, Halls Head.

[Find out more](#)

April 26 **Sustainable Living Series – Green Cleaning.** 8.30am - 11.30am.

Mandurah Library, Mandurah.

[Find out more](#)



## Events coming up...

April 27 **Greener Pastures Sanctuary Tour.** 9.30am to 11.30am.

33 Wealand Rd, Waroona.

[Find out more](#)

May 3 **Sustainable Living Series – Composting.** 9.30am - 10.30am.

Mandurah Community Gardens, Mandurah.

[Find out more](#)

May 9 **Sustainable Living Series – Recycling 101.** 1.00pm - 2.00pm.

Falcon Library and Community Centre, Falcon.

[Find out more](#)

May 10 **Birdlife WA Morning Excursion.** 8.30am - 11.30am.

Lake Richmond, Peron.

[Find out more](#)

May 11 **Pinjarra Markets.** 7.00am - 12noon.

Edenvale Heritage Precinct, Pinjarra.

[Find out more](#)

May 24 **Lake Clifton-Herron Seedling Giveaway.** 9.00am - 12noon.

This year's annual giveaway at Lake Clifton Community Hall will feature some additional elements, including a guest speaker, face painting and a coffee van. To make the event even more engaging, there will be several stalls with interactive activities, including a special one from MEHG.

While the free seedlings are reserved for only residents of the area, the event is open to all, so see you there!

Enquiries: [admin@peel-harvey.org.au](mailto:admin@peel-harvey.org.au)

May 31 **Sustainable Living Series - Wicking Beds.** 9.30am to 10.30am.

Mandurah Community Gardens, Mandurah.

[Find out more](#)

May 31 to Jun 1 **Brush Collection with Bouvard Coast Care Group (BCCG).**

Help our Bouvard Coast Care Group members to collect brush and deliver it to their planting site. More details soon. [Brushing explained.](#)

Enquiries: [admin@bouvardcoastcare.org](mailto:admin@bouvardcoastcare.org)

June 7 **Sustainable Living Series - Worm Farming.** 11.00am to 1.00pm.

Falcon Library and Community Centre, Falcon.

[Find out more](#)



## Events coming up...

June 8 **Winter Planting with Bouvard Coast Care Group (BCCG).** 9.00am.

Join in with Bouvard Coast Care Group's annual mega coast-care planting event at [Tims Thicket Beach](#). More details soon.

Enquiries: [admin@bouvardcoastcare.org](mailto:admin@bouvardcoastcare.org).

July 27 **National Tree Day Planting Event.**

Save the date for this big annual family-friendly event organised by the City of Mandurah.

This year the location will be Melros Reserve and Beach Fore-dune. More details soon!



Want to contribute an article about your property in the next Lake Clifton Landcare Matters?

Please send your article to [admin@peel-harvey.org.au](mailto:admin@peel-harvey.org.au)



Subscribe to our e-newsletter here:  
<https://peel-harvey.org.au/wattle-quoll/>

See our website for available grants and funding opportunities: <https://peel-harvey.org.au/grants/>



This project is supported by PHCC through funding from the Shire of Waroona

[admin@peel-harvey.org.au](mailto:admin@peel-harvey.org.au)

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

