

# Landcare matters

Hotham-Williams sub-catchment update



PHCC  
Working Together

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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.



## PHCC Launches 2025–2027 State NRM Community Stewardship Grant: Resilient Farms, Nature & Communities

PHCC is excited to announce the launch of its 2025–2027 State NRM Community Stewardship Grant, Resilient Farms, Nature & Communities. This initiative aims to support landholders in building more resilient and sustainable farming systems by enhancing skills, strengthening capacity, and promoting the sustainable management of land resources tailored to local needs. The project also focuses on conserving and restoring biodiversity through a range of on-ground actions.

Activities will include fencing, revegetation, event facilitation, invasive species management, and the development of best-practice methodologies to guide sustainable land management.

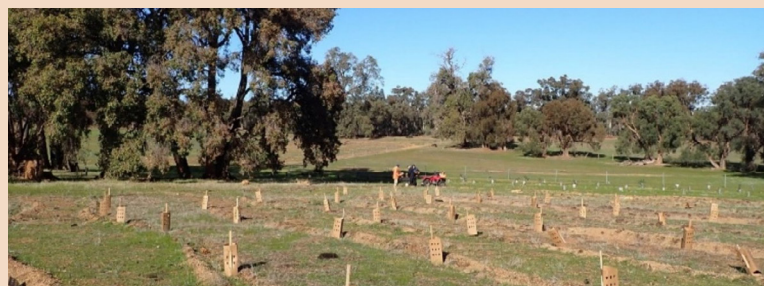
This project will be delivered across the Hotham-Williams sub catchment and the Swan Coastal Plain within the PHCC region. In these areas eligible farmers will have access to a fencing subsidy, seedlings to boost farm ecosystem health and enhance permanent vegetation cover as well as targeted weed control programs with a focus on spiny rush (*Juncus actutus*). In collaboration with local groups in PHCC's upper catchment (the Hotham-Williams) the project will also continue targeted feral pig control efforts. Additionally, PHCC will consult with specialists to review and update existing restoration guidelines for degraded and saline land with a focus on the Hotham-Williams sub catchment.

There will be a variety of events open to the community over the 3-year period that will increase landowners opportunities to learn about sustainable growing systems, increasing biodiversity and ecosystem function along with maintaining or improving productivity.

Partner organisations for these events include Birdlife Australia, Peel-Harvey Biosecurity Group, SJ Food and Farm Alliance and RegenWA.

If you have areas or issues on farm that you think may be improved through this project, we encourage you to contact us with an expression of interest, detailing what on-ground work you would like to undertake.

You can do so by reaching out to the Healthy Farms Project Officer Gen Harvey at [genevieve.harvey@peel-harvey.org.au](mailto:genevieve.harvey@peel-harvey.org.au) or calling 6369 8801 or 0438 605 112.



*This project is supported by funding from the Western Australian Government's State NRM Program.*

## River Warriors

PHCC has been hanging out on the Williams River with the local Wildlife Warriors for 4 years, and credit goes to the Williams CRC, who organise the regular activities, and also the kids and parents who come along to learn about our natural environment.

The timing has been perfect to include them with the project on the Williams River, which has been backdrop to all of the Warrior sessions that PHCC has been involved with since 2021. When we were asked to do the same in March this year, the bank rehabilitation had just been completed, and the kids were able to have a walking tour of all the structures on the banks, around significant trees, and in the bed of the river.

While they were there, the warriors checked on the seedlings that they have helped to plant since 2022, and completed a hilariously high-speed and enthusiastic 'treasure' hunt of natural features.





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## Exploration surveys for Carnaby and Baudins Black Cockatoos

PHCC and Birdlife Australia have been undertaking exploration surveys for Carnaby and Baudins Black Cockatoos around the Hotham-Williams area. We traversed bushland areas around Wandering (Timber Reserve), Boddington, Dryandra, Dwellingup, Montague State Forests and Quindanning, searching for signs of recent Black Cockatoo foraging and breeding. Thank you to our volunteers who provided more eyes on the ground, but particularly to the Wilman Elders (Jock and Nick Abraham) who joined our Dryandra surveys and provided important historical information about bush tucker and the significance of Dryandra for Wilman People. Stay tuned as we collate our results following 15 days of intensive field surveys.

Following recent droughts and consecutive years with lower than average rainfall, there seems to be a shortage of good quality seed in most bushland sites. As a result, we observed fewer signs of foraging at bushland sites previously known to be important sites for Black Cockatoos, but found increased signs of foraging and roosting around farmland and pine plantations. These findings reinforce the importance of preserving all large

forage trees in the catchment and also supports a staged approach to clearing pine plantations.

If you suspect Black Cockatoos are foraging, roosting or breeding on your property, please report your findings to Birdlife Australia via their Birddata App (<https://birddata.birdlife.org.au/>) or email Birdlife at [greatcockycount@birdlife.org.au](mailto:greatcockycount@birdlife.org.au).



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

## Field Day at Cuballing with Mulloon Institute

On Monday 31 March participants gathered at a farm in Cuballing for a Landscape Rehydration Field Day. The event included technical, theoretical, and practical in-field demonstrations exploring how water moves through a landscape.

Mulloon institute Landscape Planner and Hydrologist Lance Mudgway delivered a comprehensive explanation of the water cycle, highlighting the relationship between water, plants, solar radiation, and gravity. In the field, participants had the opportunity to assess the landscape, identify patterns and processes, and deepen their understanding of soil and water interactions. Key discussions focused on salinity, erosion, and how these challenges can be addressed through planning and design to achieve sustainable water conservation.

A special thank you to Mike Burges for hosting us for this event. For further information and resources, visit Mulloon Institute <https://www.themullooninstitute.org/>.



*This project is supported by the Sustainable Agriculture Position and the Australian Government through funding from the National Heritage Trust under the climate-Smart Agriculture Program.*

## Save the date

SJ Food & Farm Fest

Date: Saturday 3 May

Time: 10.00am - 4.00pm

Tickets and more details can be found here: [www.foodandfarmfest.com.au](http://www.foodandfarmfest.com.au)



**Newmont**



These projects are supported by PHCC through funding from Newmont Boddington, South32 Worsley Alumina and the Shires of Boddington, Cuballing, Wandering and Williams.

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