

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.



Magical Night at Barna Mia

We had a lovely night at Barna Mia in Dryandra Woodland National Park with members of the Wilman community, the Traditional Owners of Dryandra Woodland.

The night began with a special Welcome to Country from Wilman Elder, Travis (Jock) Abraham, followed by a lovely dinner. We then took a tour of the sanctuary to look out for bilby, woylie, mala, quenda and boodie. Of these five species that once called Dryandra Woodland home, only woylies and quendas can still be found in the woodland today.

We learned about the threats these species face, including predation by foxes and feral cats, as well as habitat loss. It was an amazing night under the stars.

Thank you to everyone who came along!

Find out more about Barna Mia here <https://exploreparks.dbca.wa.gov.au/site/barna-mia-nocturnal-wildlife-experience>

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



Image: Jock (Travis) Abraham Wilman Elder conducting Welcome to Country



Image: Barna Mia presentation by DBCA guide, Veronica

Rabbit Control

European Rabbits are Australia's most destructive and widespread environmental and agricultural pest animal. The most effective approach to rabbit control uses a combination of control techniques applied in a strategic manner which needs to be ongoing to be effective.

- 1080 baiting
- Trapping
- Shooting
- Warren destruction
- Fumigation
- Removing harbour
- Monitoring and adapting



Working with your neighbours is important to have the greatest impact on the rabbit population.

PHCC has in the past coordinated the release of the RHDV1-K5 rabbit virus. This year due to concerns around population immunity PHCC will not be coordinating the release. We are currently investigating if we may be able to release the virus again in future years in a more targeted manner. To find out more about how to control rabbits on your property visit: <https://pestsmart.org.au/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2020/09/>

Wandering Fox Shoot 2025

Numbats are safer after the Wandering Fox Hunt with 45 participants culling an impressive 135 foxes, 3 feral cats, 1 feral pig and 10 rabbits at the Wandering Fox Hunt 2025. These activities help to reduce the risk of predation and habitat destruction to threatened species.

PHCC funded the breakfast and were able to thank and provide vouchers to the attendees for the hard work they do protecting local threatened species including numbats, woylies and chuditch.

PHCC is proud to have supported this event through the Numbat Neighbourhood Project since 2020 and in those 6 years 908 foxes, 32 feral cats, 82 rabbits and 14 feral pigs have been culled and are no longer predating or destroying the habitat of threatened species.

We'd like to say a big thank you to the event organisers and participants.

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Image: Christie Stewart winner of the Wandering Rural Voucher with Christine PHCC's Farmers for Fauna Coordinator

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Williams River Bank Rehabilitation

You all know the drill by now...

We've been working hard in specific areas on the Hotham and Williams Rivers. During the first week of March, we completed another section of the Williams River downstream of the town weir next to the Lions Rest Area. If you're passing through and want to have a look, follow the

dirt track heading north west from the car park, and pop down to the river where you will see access points. There are several structures along that stretch, ranging from re-sloping and using primarily rocks to reinforce the banks, and use of logs to enhance habitat and compliment the rock material. There are also a couple

of in-stream structures that aim to help maintain and build up the pools, which are becoming more and more important in the drying climate. The biodegradable jute mat placed on all the re-sloped banks will provide good spots for planting seedlings later in the year.

Here's a bunch of photos to check out the treated banks.



In-Stream Structure



Strategic Re-Sloping



Partnership with Wilman (Dryandra) People Corporation

Soil Health Workshop with Mark Tupman

On Wednesday 19th March we hosted a Soil Health Workshop with Mark Tupman from Productive Ecology at Quindanning Community Hall as part of our Future Ready Farming Project. This project is run over 4 years with funding from the Natural Heritage Trust under the Climate-Smart Agriculture Program.

We learnt the Fundamentals of Functional Soil Fertility, including the basic characteristics of soils, understanding plant/microbe/soil systems, optimising plant growth to build soil, leveraging plant diversity, the benefits of animals in our paddocks and how taking care of our soil life is crucial to a healthy planet. After a delicious morning tea and lunch from

Boddington Bakehouse we then discussed how building healthy soil systems can be managed by establishing multi species pastures and cover crops, managing grazing to improve pastures, making high quality compost, getting things off to a good start with planting treatments, targeting nutrition to maximized returns.

The workshop concluded by getting our hands dirty by making a compost to use as a seed coating prior to sowing a paddock as well as making up a foliar fertiliser mix. We also tested the sugar levels in orange and apple juice and compared the results to the sugar levels in freshly picked pasture using a Refractometer.

The Future Ready Farming project will see us working with a number of farmers over 4 years on multispecies pastures and cover crop demonstration sites. For this upcoming sowing season we are working with four farmers, two on the Swan Coastal Plain and two within the Hotham-Williams subcatchment. We plan to invite another four farmers each year to join the project. More information can be found at <https://peel-harvey.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/Future-Ready-Farming.pdf>

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



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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