

# Landcare matters

Hotham-Williams sub-catchment update



**PHCC**  
Working Together

Edition 100  
August 2025



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.



## Holistic Management Training Program - Enquire Now!

Join the Institute of Regenerative Leadership in a 6-month program to help you make informed environmental, social, and financial decisions. This course provides knowledge, practical skills, and a strong support network to help you succeed.

You will:

- Learn to manage effectively for positive outcomes.
- Connect with like-minded land managers who understand your challenges.
- Make small but powerful changes that drive big improvements.
- Extend your growing season for greater profitability and resilience.

What's included:

Two in-person 2-day workshops (planned for September 2025 & March 2026 - dates TBC) at key points in the growing cycling, including one field walk on-farm.

Support between sessions (via video calls, WhatsApp) to help implement what you learn. This blended format ensures participants receive both structured learning and practical, real-world application with consistent support along the way.

Where: This will be within the Hotham-Williams Catchment, Exact location TBC (dependent on registrations).

Cost: \$395 exc GST.

This course is heavily subsidised

by PHCC and the Shire of Boddington, Wandering, Williams and Cuballing. It would usually cost thousands of dollars.

Please contact PHCC's Sustainable Agriculture Facilitator Georgina Warden via [georgina.warden@peel-harvey.org.au](mailto:georgina.warden@peel-harvey.org.au) or 6369 8800 for more information and how to register.

We require at least 10 participants eager to plan and develop an exciting future to proceed.

For more information on the Institute of Regenerative Leadership visit [www.regenerativeladership.com.au/](http://www.regenerativeladership.com.au/)

*This program is supported by the Australian Government through funding from the Natural Heritage Trust under the Climate-Smart Agriculture Program and the Shires of Boddington, Cuballing, Wandering*

## On the Ground – Future Ready Farming

Future Ready Farming Kicks Off with Four Demonstration Sites.

We've wrapped up the first season of our Future Ready Farming project, an initiative focused on supporting landholders to transition to climate smart agriculture.

This year, we established four demonstration sites in Marradong, Quindanning, Mundijong, and West Coolup, showcasing regenerative practices including cover cropping, multi-species and perennial pastures, biologically orientated fertility, and mob grazing.

Despite a late season break, the timing aligned well with contractor availability, and the final site was seeded on 29th May, just as rain began, ideal conditions for

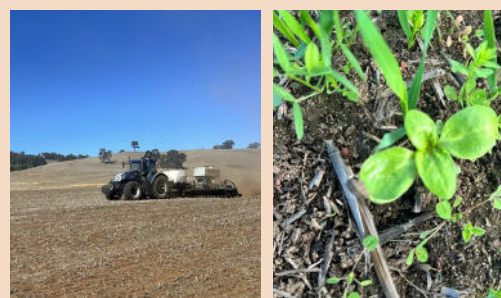
germination. We worked closely with Agroecologist Mark Tupman (Productive Ecology) to develop two specially developed pasture mixes, prepare a compost slurry mix enriched with Mycorrhizal fungi, seaweed granules, and a trace element solution, tailored to the specific conditions at each site.

Soil sampling transects have been established, baseline soil tests have been completed, and we will return annually over the next three years to conduct indicator tests, plant tissue tests and track soil health improvements. We're now working closely with each landholder on follow-up treatments based on initial observations and test results.

All of this is being documented

by video which we will be sharing very soon! Keep an eye out on our socials and You-Tube channel.

We plan to support more landholders with this work over the next 3 years, stayed tuned for updates.



*Seeding bar in action and a sunflower seedling*

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

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## Why did the fish climb the ladder?

These photos are of the fish ladder constructed in 2013 at the Boddington weir, when there were only very few examples of structures like this in south west WA. Fish ladders or 'fish ways' are designed and installed when there are physical barriers to migration in our rivers (such as weirs). For example, our little native fish the western minnow migrates upstream to spawn, and although it can jump small barriers, it is far too small to do that when it comes across large obstacles. Fish ladders provide the perfect gradient for these and other migratory fish species to continue upstream uninterrupted.

On the whole, our rivers are degraded due to various impacts and need our help, which can be in the form of



Taken when it was first installed, looking upstream

interventions such as these sorts of in-stream structures, bank stabilisation, and protecting and enhancing riverine vegetation. Sometimes this can also be in the form of high impact activities like sediment removal, which the Shire of Boddington is currently carrying out above the weir on the Hotham River. Semi-permanent and permanent pools are going to become more and more important refuge areas for aquatic species as our climate becomes hotter and drier, and a suite of interventions to enhance them is sometimes required, in addition to adding vegetation and shade. These always need to be carefully planned and approved by relevant authorities. More information about the Shire of Boddington 'Lions Weir Project' can be found on their website [www.boddington.wa.gov.au](http://www.boddington.wa.gov.au)

PHCC is still working hard on the Hotham-Williams River Action Plan which involves a staged process of positive interventions at strategic sites on the rivers. Check out previous Landcare Matters since October 2021 for project activity highlights here: [www.peel-harvey.org.au/newsletters/](http://www.peel-harvey.org.au/newsletters/)

## What's happening...

**100 editions later: a look back at where we began**



Edition 1, July 2016

### Have your say:

The Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) is inviting public comment on both Alcoa's Pinjarra Alumina Refinery proposal and Mining on the Darling Range proposal.

You have until Thursday 21 August 2025 to have your say.

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

## Save the date...

**Williams River Festival**

Saturday 6 September 2025

## Signs of Breeding White-tailed Black Cockatoos – We need your help!

Finding suitable breeding hollows is huge investment for Black Cockatoos, spending up to 8 months searching. As we emerge from winter they become most active in their search for hollows. While Carnaby Black Cockatoos tend to prefer the Swan Coastal Plain for breeding, we know they are breeding in areas around Dryandra, Boddington, Crossman and Wandering. For both White-tailed Black Cockatoos (Baudin's and Carnaby's) in the

broader Hotham-Williams area, we have much to learn about their abundance, distribution and breeding locations. Please keep your eyes peeled for breeding behaviour and never underestimate the value of old, dead stag trees for black cockatoo breeding. At this time of year, if you see a pair of White-tailed Black Cockatoos hanging around a large tree hollow on your property or nearby Reserve, and persistently coming back to the hollow with nesting

material, please let our team know at [admin@peel-harvey.org.au](mailto:admin@peel-harvey.org.au). This information helps us to work with local landholders to protect critical breeding habitat in the Hotham-Williams area.



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

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



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

