

Landcare matters

Hotham-Williams sub-catchment update



PHCC
Working Together

Edition 101
September 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.



Campfire and Seedlings on the Hotham River

Following bank rehabilitation efforts earlier in the year, planting has begun on the Hotham River near the Old Pumphreys Homestead at Koompinkning/Pumphreys Bridge.

It's the next step in the process of improving health and habitat on the Hotham River. Establishing seedlings on the banks will help to stabilise them and create nooks and crannies for riverine species to feed and shelter in. Vegetation also helps to slow water down so it can soak into the soil instead of draining away very quickly, which happens in waterways with sparse or no vegetation on the banks.

Local species of samphire, paperbarks, blackbutt, flooded gum and more were planted, and quandongs were also contributed

by the Numbat Neighbourhood Project. These quandongs were grown with a glowing wattle host tree as they are a parasitic species. The quandongs were planted with the critically endangered woylies in mind as the quandong seeds are an important food source for woylies. This site is only 7km from Dryandra Woodland National Park which is one of only 3 remaining places that are home to a naturally occurring wild population of woylies. It was a special moment to have Wilman Elder Travis (Jock) Abraham plant one of the quandong trees looking out over the culturally significant site.

Elder Travis (Jock) Abraham conducted a Welcome to Country prior to planting and also brought with him other members of

the Wilman (Dryandra) People Corporation. Yolanda Cool was also there representing the Ebner family who bought and restored the Old Pumphreys Homestead in the 1980's. It was fitting to bring everyone together around a campfire on the Hotham, and speak about the past whilst planning for the future of the river in that eternal meeting place Koompinkning – *Plenty of Water* (Pumphreys Bridge).

A week later, more plants went in near the Old Pumphreys Bridge ruins at the picnic and campgrounds, with helpers from the community and Newmont Australia (Boddington). The Wandering Lions provided a sausage sizzle and thanks also to the Pumphreys Bridge CWA for the scones!



Ebner family representative, Yolanda with the Wilman Crew



Yarns around the fire



Jock Abraham planting quandong tree by the Hotham River

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Successful Phascogale Nest Box Monitoring

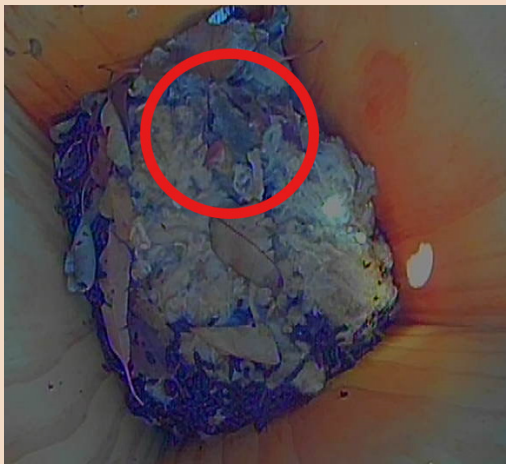
This year's annual phascogale nest box monitoring has been our most successful yet! Out of the 8 boxes that are spread out across the Upper catchment 4 had phascogales present and an additional 3 boxes, that were vacant at the time of monitoring, contained phascogale scats.

The phascogale nest boxes were assembled by the Wandering Primary School Students in 2018 and installed between 2018-2020 and annual monitoring has occurred in July ever since.

To conduct the monitoring, we use a custom-made pole camera to make sure we didn't disturb any occupants. We are very quiet and conduct the monitoring in the late afternoon so that if the phascogales were to exit

the box the sun would not be too bright, and it wouldn't be too long before dark. We monitor the boxes annually in July, the early mating period for phascogales. Not only are we checking for the presence of phascogales we are also checking to see if the nest boxes require any maintenance and if there is the presence of pest animals including feral bees and rats. If the box is empty, we clean it out and freshen up the sheep wool nesting material.

This annual monitoring is a highlight of our year.



A cosy phascogale



Camera monitoring in action

What's happening...

Holistic Management Workshop Program

Hotham-Williams

Workshops: Two in-person, two day workshops.

1st workshop: 24-25 September

Visit: <https://peel-harvey.org.au/events/holistic-management-workshop/>

Regenerative Food Systems

Collective responsibility for soil health, human wellbeing & food security. In September 2025 RegenWA Ltd and Perth NRM will facilitate international discussion on how we can drive change through our food systems.

17-18 September 2025

<https://regenwapresents.com/>

GROUND 2025

GROUND 2025 is a cross between a world class conference, an informative field day and a cracking food festival. GROUND 2025 will be hosted on a gorgeous farm near Bridgetown.

19-21 September

<https://groundedaustralia.com.au/>

Coming up in October...

Small Landholders Workshop

Carbon and Natural Capital Accounting Workshop

Dates and Location TBC

Save the date...

Williams River Festival

Saturday 6 September 2025

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1393280701766450>

Williams River Gathering
Saturday 6 September
9.00am - 11.30am

Please join us for a free, family-friendly celebration of the ongoing restoration on the Williams River

Enjoy a ride on the Lions mini-train to see nearby restoration sites (with a chance to get your hands dirty and plant a seedling or two) and take part in a Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony led by local Wilman Elders. There'll be cultural demonstrations, nature-based crafts for all ages, and of course, a delicious Lions Club BBQ and coffee van to keep you fuelled throughout the morning.

Bring your friends, your family, and your curiosity

Location: Riverbank beside the Williams Rest Area and adjacent carpark
Contact: karen.lyons@peel-harvey.org.au

Australian Government Newmont WILMAN SHIRES PHCC

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Newmont

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