

# Landcare matters

Lake Clifton Sub-catchment



Edition 25  
August 2025

Welcome to the 25th 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.

## Granny Bonnets flowering in your Woodland this Spring

*Isotropis cuneifolia*, or Granny Bonnets, is a resilient native shrub found in the Banksia and Tuart Woodlands across the Southwest of WA, including around the Lake Clifton area. The bright yellow pea-flowers are often tinged with red and bloom in small clusters. The velvety petals and wedge-shaped leaves give it a distinctive charm among the bushland.

Beyond its beauty, this plant improves soil health through nitrogen fixation and supports biodiversity. Noongar people may have traditionally used parts of this species in bush medicine,

recognising its ecological and cultural value. Some *Isotropis* species can be toxic to stock, as they potentially contain sodium fluoroacetate or cyanide, which can be fatal especially to young lambs. However, our native fauna are well adapted to this toxin (also occurs in *Gastrolobium* species), with no known toxicities occurring to native animals.

Protecting this humble shrub helps preserve our natural heritage and Indigenous knowledge. Keep an eye out for its golden blooms—they're a quiet celebration of life in our local landscape.



Golden blooms of *Isotropis cuneifolia* in Lake Clifton bushland. Photo by Tracey Hudson

## Don't be fooled by this beauty - it's a bushland bandit. Meet *Ursinia anthemoides*.



*Ursinia anthemoides*  
Photo by Tracey Hudson

Think you've spotted a charming daisy in the bush? Look again—it might be *Ursinia anthemoides*, a sneaky weed dressed in sunshine. With its creamy yellow petals and fern-like leaves, *Ursinia* often fools people into thinking it's a harmless wildflower.

Behind the daisy disguise, it's a fast-spreading invader. Originally from southern Africa, *Ursinia* thrives in disturbed soils and quickly outcompetes native plants—especially after bushfires and disturbance such as clearing. *Ursinia* generally have faster, less variable and

higher germination rates compared with native annual species, giving it a competitive advantage.

Pretty? Absolutely, but in Western Australia's ecosystems, this daisy lookalike is more trouble than it seems. If you see this bushland bandit growing in your Woodland (generally germinates in May–June, with active growth stage occurring from June–December), manual removal is recommended. Don't be fooled if buying daisies from nurseries as some are incorrectly advertised as native species.

## Mark your calendars for the Waroona Show on Saturday 11 October - the only Agricultural Show in the Peel Region!

Be sure to visit the PHCC stall at the Waroona Show where you can chat with Georgina Warden, our Sustainable Agriculture Facilitator about current projects and all things agriculture.

Tickets available here: <https://megatix.com.au/events/WaroonaAgShow2025>

or visit: <https://www.waroonashow.com.au/> for more details.





### Bloodroot - bush tucker

*Haemodorum spicatum*, Bloodroot (Bohn or Mardja – Noongar names) is related to Kangaroo Paws and grows as scattered individuals or in small groups. Three species of Bloodroot were known to be eaten by local Noongar people. The plant was called 'Bloodroot' because of the colour which oozes from the roots when it is cut.

The unusual chemicals that cause the reddish-orange colour are not found anywhere else in the plant kingdom. One of these chemicals is being researched by pharmaceutical companies due to its antibacterial and antitumour properties.

Cultural uses:

- Has a red-coloured root system that is edible and is said to taste like pepper/chilli.
- Eaten either raw or roasted; may be pounded and added to dishes to make them spicy.
- Used to help with dysentery (diarrhoea).
- The reddish-orange colour in the roots were used as a dye.

Flowers in Kambarang to Bunuru (Spring and Summer) with a flowering spike to 2 m covered in dense black flowers. Flowers never open (see image) and flowering is often stimulated by fire. The flowers are pollinated by native bees which are strong enough to push open the hard petals, diving head first into the flower to collect the pollen and copious nectar.

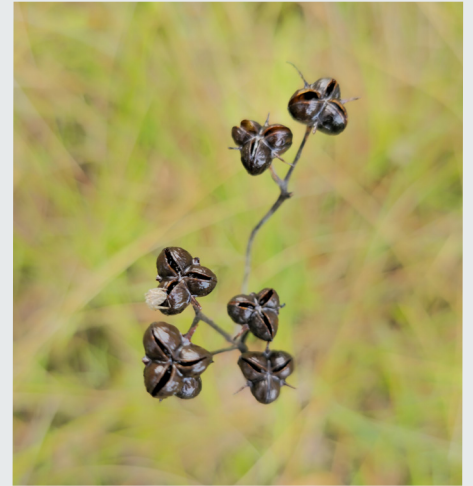
Bloodroot is a slow-growing species and harvesting for bush tucker generally occurs after 4-8 years growth. Take care not to damage or clear any *Haemodorum* in your Woodland.



Winjan Bindjareb Boodja Ranger removing bloodroot bush tucker



Bloodroot seedling supplied by Nuts about Natives



Bloodroot flower  
Photo by Tracey Hudson

### Wetlands Festival on Saturday 11 October - Save the date!

Join us for another exciting Wetlands Festival with a full program of fun and engaging activities for the whole family to enjoy. This annual event at Coodanup Foreshore Reserve is a great opportunity to come and explore nature and learn about our wonderful Wetlands. Visit: <https://peel-harvey.org.au/events/wonders-of-our-wetlands-festival-save-the-date/>





### Love is in the air for Black Cockatoos

It's breeding season for Black Cockatoos. These long-lived birds display strong pair bonds and mate for life. They spend up to 8 months searching every year for suitable breeding hollows, which are hollows approx. 1 m deep (generally in *Eucalyptus* species) that have a solid base or floor. Hollows large enough for breeding are usually only found in trees that are more than 200 years old.

There are 3 species of Black Cockatoos in Southwest of WA: Baudin's Cockatoo breeds from August/September to February/March, while Carnaby's Cockatoo breeds from July/August to January/February (our two White-tailed Black Cockatoos). The Forest Red-tailed Black Cockatoo breeds in October/November, but in years with good autumn rainfall they may breed in March/April.

Carnaby's Cockatoos tend to inhabit low heaths and Woodlands of the midwest and south coast, while Baudin's and Forest Red-tailed Black Cockatoos have a preference for jarrah and marri forests. However, all Black Cockatoos can now be seen in the city due to their adaptation at eating non-native seeds and the fact that they are running out of places to live due to deforestation.

The Baudin's and Carnaby's look very similar and it wasn't until 1979 that they were declared a separate species. The telltale differences are that Baudin's have a longer and finer upper bill or beak, with a shortened whistle or call.

Unfortunately, up until the 1960s, Baudin's had a bounty on their heads and remained on the WA Department of Agriculture and Food declared pest list until 2016. Today, both White-tailed Black Cockatoos are now listed as

Endangered but the legacy of viewing them as pests still exists with the key threat to Baudin's being illegal shooting by Orchardists and crop farmers.

If you suspect you have White-tailed Black Cockatoos breeding on your property, please contact the PHCC team at [admin@peel-harvey.org.au](mailto:admin@peel-harvey.org.au) so we can work together to protect breeding and foraging resources for Black Cockatoos in the Peel-Harvey Catchment.



**Carnaby's Cockatoo**

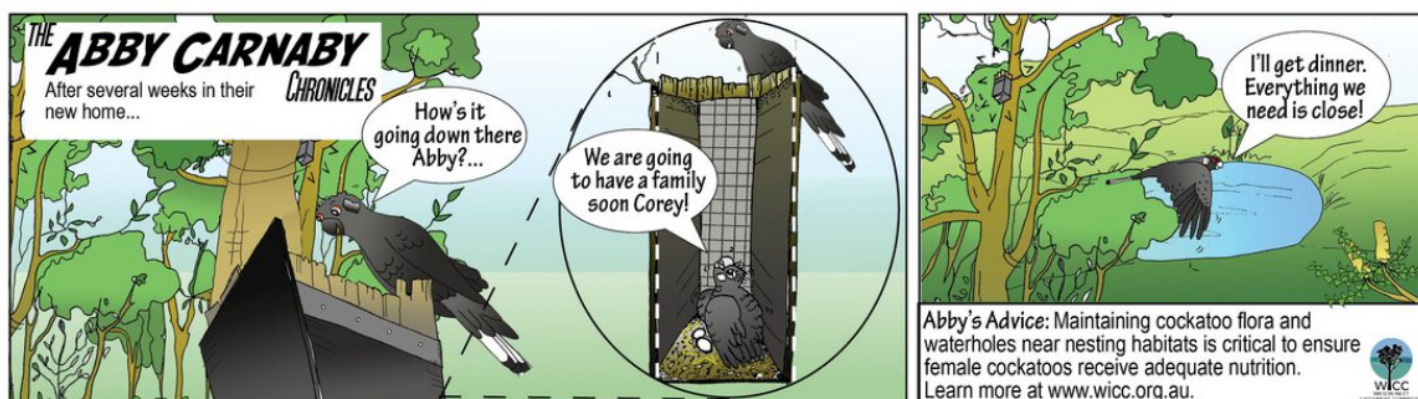
**Baudin's Cockatoo**

*Photo and montage by Keith Lightbody*

### The Abby Carnaby Chronicles

Follow the adventures of Abby and her partner Corey as they look to raise a family and navigate perils along the way with the Wilson Inlet Catchment Committee's educational cartoon series called 'The Abby Carnaby Chronicles'.

Visit: <https://www.wicc.org.au/the-abby-carnaby-chronicles.html>





## Bark Tales: Whose bark are you?

Western Australia's forests are full of character—and you can read their stories right in the bark. Our most common *Eucalyptus* trees on the Swan Coastal Plain can be difficult to identify. Tuart, Marri and Jarrah are amongst our largest and most dominant Eucalypt and all are found in Banksia and Tuart Woodland Threatened Ecological Community. The easiest way to tell these species apart is through their bark and nuts.

### Tuart (*Eucalyptus gomphocephala*)

Tuart bark is like a weathered stone wall—rough, scaly and flaky with irregular patterns. In sunlight, it can appear bone white; in shade, it deepens to grey or brown. This bark stretches all the way up the trunk and branches, giving Tuart its rugged, ancient look. It's a tree that wears its age proudly. The swollen bud caps are shaped like small ice cream cones. Each bud cap is eight to 10 millimetres long.



Tuart Bark

### Marri (*Corymbia calophylla*)

Marri bark is a patchwork of textures. It's thick, rough and deeply fissured, often oozing red gum that looks like the tree is bleeding. The bark can be brown, grey, or even orange underneath, and older trees often sport burls and warty growths. Buds occur on long stalks and in loose clusters of three to seven. It's a tree that looks like it belongs in a fantasy novel—gnarled, mysterious, and full of life. Noongars eat the gum to fix an upset tummy, and toothache.



Marri Bark

### Jarrah (*Eucalyptus marginata*)

Jarrah's bark is fibrous and stringy, always growing in vertical lines like nature's corduroy. Younger bark glows reddish-brown, while older layers turn grey. It sheds in long strips, giving the forest floor a rustic carpet. Jarrah's bark is tough but elegant, like the tree itself. The buds occur in clusters of seven to 11 and look like pixie hats.

Next time you're walking through the bush, look beyond the leaves. The bark tells you who's who, and each tree has its own story etched in texture.



Jarrah Bark

## Dad Joke Corner

Why don't plants like math?

Because it gives them square roots!

Why did the compost break up with the mulch?

There was too much dirt between them!

Why did the tomato turn red?

Because it saw the salad dressing!

What's the difference between a bad joke and a dad joke?

The first letter!

### Talking to Plants





## Steps to successful revegetation: Landholders doing their part to conserve woodlands

Planting season is almost over for this year. PHCC would like to acknowledge and thank landholders undertaking revegetation as part of our World for Woodlands and Carnaby Projects. It's great to see native species replace weeds and bare areas, to provide habitat for native fauna. Revegetation can be challenging on the Swan Coastal Plain due to sandy soils with poor water holding capacity. It takes persistence, patience and a whole lot of love! If you want to revegetate your property with native species, follow these simple steps:

### Step 1: Plan to Succeed

- Define your goals: Are you restoring habitat, preventing erosion, or improving biodiversity?
- Assess your site: Understand soil type, climate, existing vegetation, and threats like weeds or grazing.
- Create an action plan: Include timelines, budget, and resources needed.
- Seek expert advice: Consult local landcare groups, PHCC or ecological consultants for guidance.

### Step 2: Design Your Revegetation

- Choose appropriate species: Use local provenance plants suited to your microclimate.
- Plan plant layout: Consider canopy, mid-story, and groundcover layers.
- Incorporate wildlife corridors: Link habitats to support native fauna. Logs, branches and leaf litter on the ground provide sufficient habitat for most small native fauna.

### Step 3: Prepare the Site

- Weed control: Remove invasive species before planting. It is important to follow weed control with revegetation of native grasses (e.g., Foxtail Mulga Grass, Evans Wallaby Grass, Kangaroo Grass, etc).
- Soil preparation: Rip soils if compacted or clay, add soil amendments to stimulate microbial growth.

### Step 4: Plant Your Site

- Use an auger or hand trowel to dig a small hole for the plant. Prior to placing plant in the hole, place a small amount of water crystals,

mulch or other similar products (such as TerracCottem®) to help retain soil moisture.

- Install tree guards: Protect seedlings from animals and harsh weather.
- Time it right: Plant during cooler months from end of May to end of July and after rain for better survival.
- Mulch around seedlings: Retain moisture and suppress weeds.

### Step 5: Maintain, Monitor, and Adapt

- Regular monitoring: Track plant survival and seedling growth with photos and notes.
- Watering and weeding: Especially critical in the first 12–24 months.
- Replace failed plants: Fill gaps to maintain coverage.
- Celebrate progress: Share results with your community.

If you have Banksia or Tuart Woodlands, or important habitat for Black Cockatoos, contact PHCC as may be able to support your conservation works with funding and technical advice.




PHCC volunteers Grace and Hailee planting




Top left and above: Revegetation sites



## ALMOND & RICOTTA CAKE

 6-8 servings

 60 minutes

RICH & DECADENT, QUICK & EASY & GLUTEN FREE!



### INGREDIENTS

115g unsalted butter, softened  
150g granulated sugar  
2 teaspoons of vanilla extract  
½ teaspoon of almond extract  
4 eggs, separated  
425g of ricotta cheese  
1-2 lemons, finely grated zest  
200g almond flour  
½ cup of sliced almonds  
pinch of salt  
1 tablespoon of sifted icing sugar  
for serving

### DIRECTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 350F, and grease & line a 8-9 inch spring form cake pan.
2. In a large bowl, cream together butter and sugar until smooth, then add the egg yolks (keep whites aside).
3. Beat in ricotta cheese, lemon zest (no juice) and vanilla & almond extracts, then add the almond flour and pinch of salt.
4. Beat the egg whites in another bowl, until stiff peaks form, then fold into the ricotta & almond cake batter.
5. Pour the batter into prepared cake tin and sprinkle with a generous amount of the sliced almonds.
6. Bake until its a beautiful golden brown on top and mostly settled. Don't overbake or the cake will dry up!
7. Cool at room temperature, remove from the pan, and sprinkle the almond top with sifted icing sugar for that perfect finishing touch.
8. Serve with a dollop of cream and enjoy!

**TIP:** Whip egg whites until firm, then fold into batter in small batches. Use a spatula to sweep around the bowl's edge, under the batter, and into the centre, rotating the bowl as you go to keep the whites from deflating and the batter light.



## Peel-Harvey Biosecurity Group (PHBG) photo competition



# PEEL-HARVEY PHOTO COMPETITION

**THEME: PROTECTING YOUR PATCH**

Junior (Under 16s)

Open (Over 16s)

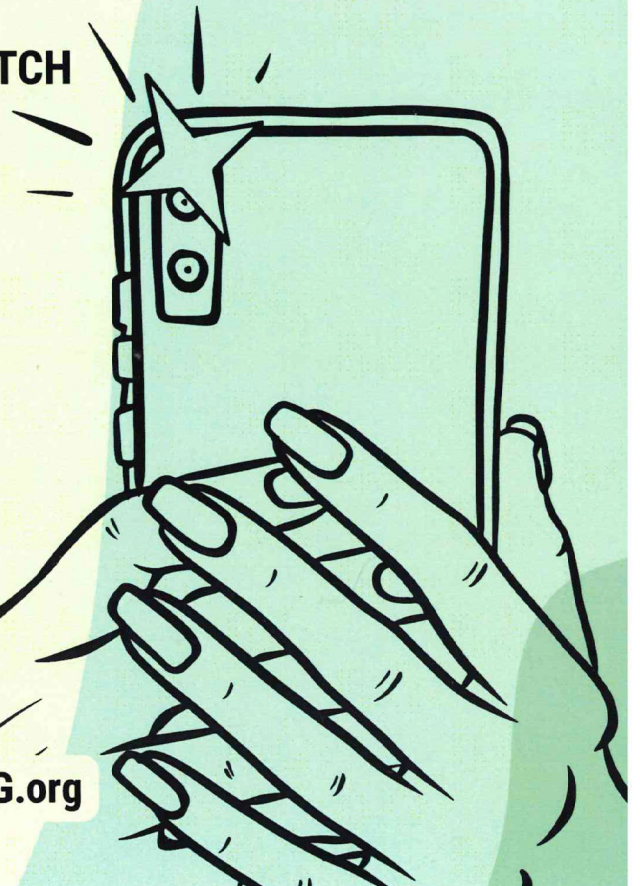
Prizes for winners

**SUBMIT YOUR ENTRY BY  
10 OCTOBER 2025**

**SCAN HERE**



[www.PHBG.org](http://www.PHBG.org)





## Holistic Management Workshop

The program includes two in-person 2-day workshops at key points in the growing cycle and support between sessions to help implement what you learn. For more information or to book: <https://events.humanitix.com/peel-holistic-management-workshop-program-empowering-people-to-shape-the-future-of-regenerative-nature-based-farming-together>



### Empowering People to Shape the Future of Regenerative, Nature-Based Farming Together

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.

The program includes **two in-person 2-day workshops** at key points in the growing cycle and **support between sessions** to help implement what you learn.

### Peel Workshops

01 & 02 October 2025  
26 & 27 March 2026

#### Book tickets:

<https://events.humanitix.com/peel-holistic-management-workshop-program-empowering-people-to-shape-the-future-of-regenerative-nature-based-farming-together>

**Workshop Location:**  
To be advised

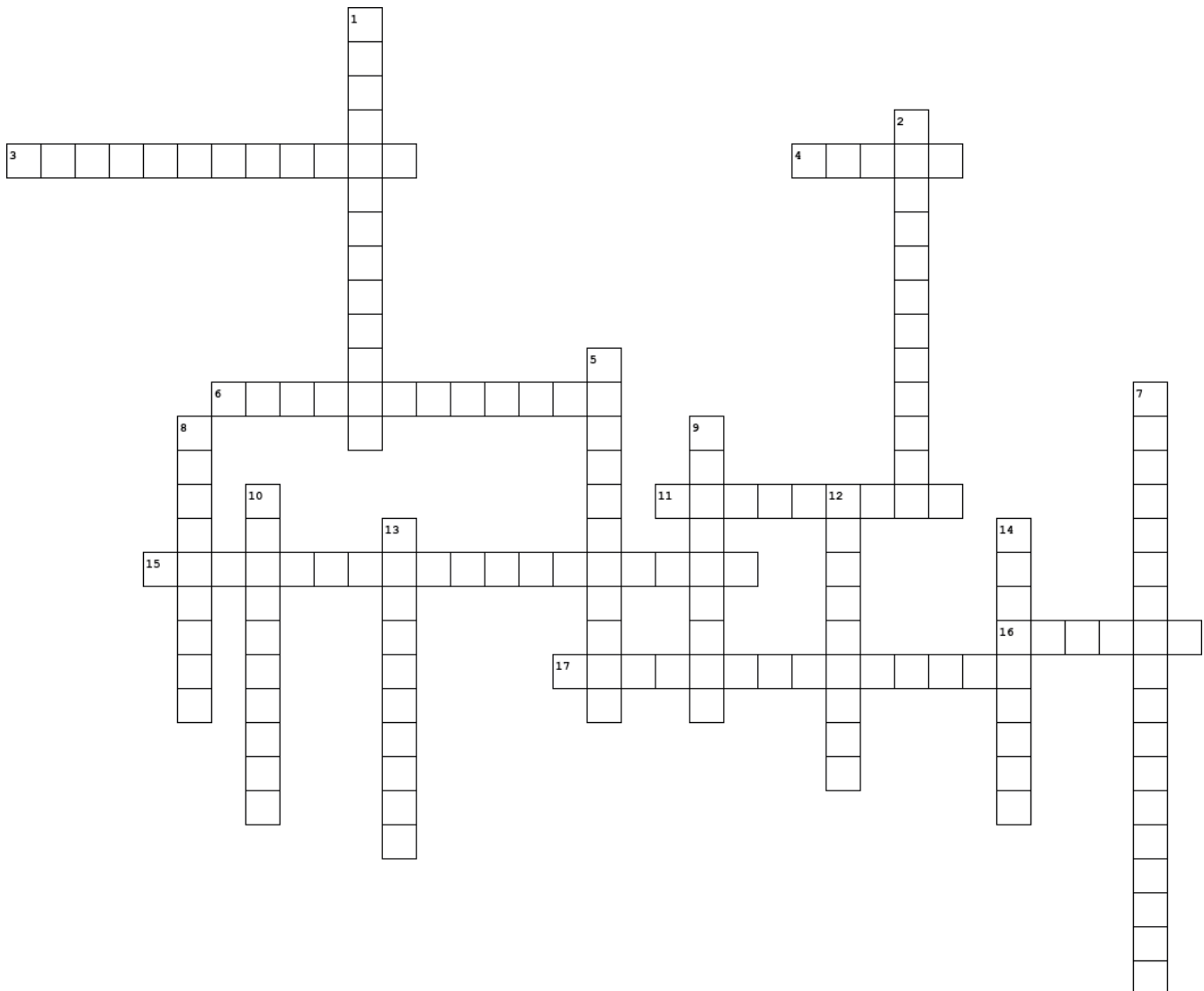
**Cost: \$395 + GST & Fees**  
**Full value: \$3000 + GST**



Thanks to the generous support from the Healthy Estuaries WA this program is heavily subsidised.



## Local Plants of Banksia and Tuart Woodlands



### Across

3. Australia's national floral emblem, but considered a weed in WA, similar to *Acacia saligna* (common name, 2 words).
4. Eucalyptus with the biggest seed pods hanging down in clusters, and blood red sap (common name, 1 word).
6. Swathes of purple flowers, a beautiful Banksia woodland creeper (scientific name, genus only, 1 word).
11. One of the few plants in the world to produce pollen from the tips of its fluffy leaves (common name, 2 words).
15. A weed often confused with a native daisy, also the weed featured in this newsletter edition (scientific name, 2 words).
16. Tree with needle-like leaves, that look similar to a cassowary feather (common name, 1 word).
17. Tree with large, toothed leaves. Large yellow flower heads are the biggest flowers in Australia (scientific name, two words).

### Down

1. Has scarlet-coloured flowers and runs along the ground (common name, 2 words).
2. A very prickly yellow flowered Acacia, found throughout Banksia woodlands (common name, 2 words).
5. Belongs to the genus *Anigozanthos* and flora emblem of WA (common name, 2 words).
7. Western Australia's Christmas tree (scientific name, 2 words).
8. A common name for a Melaleuca. Noongar people used the bark for shelter, bedding and carrying items (common name, 2 words).
9. Small bush, with fluffy white/grey flowers the colour of smoke (common name, 2 words).
10. Also known as 'frilly knickers', this lily has beautiful fringed purple flowers (common name, two words).
12. Bushtucker species of focus in this newsletter edition (common name, two words).
13. Black cockatoos love this Banksia bush, with spiky leaves (common name, 2 words).
14. Grows a tall spike flower. Noongar name is Balga (common name, 2 words).



## Events coming up...

July 1 - Aug 29 **Creatures of our City Exhibition.** 10am - 3pm.

Mandurah Museum. Recurs every Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

Discover Mandurah's incredible native wildlife in this special museum exhibition.

Visit: <https://www.mandurah.wa.gov.au/explore/whats-on/calendar/museum/creatures-of-our-city-exhibition>

Aug 22 **Quenda and Us - Living Together.** 10am - 11am.

Mandurah Museum.

Join Dr Catherine Baudains at Mandurah Museum for an engaging and informative presentation on one of our most charming local marsupials — the quenda (southern brown bandicoot).

Visit: <https://www.mandurah.wa.gov.au/explore/whats-on/calendar/museum/quenda-and-us---living-together>

Aug 31 **Dawesville Community Centre Opening.** 12pm - 2pm.

Woodstock Ave Dawesville.

You're invited to celebrate the launch of this amazing new facility with a morning filled with fun and activities.

Visit: <https://www.mandurah.wa.gov.au/explore/whats-on/calendar>

Sept 13 - 14 **Friends of Kings Park Native Plant Sale.** 9am - 12.30pm.

Poolgarla Parklands, near Koorak Café (formerly Stickybeaks) and Ivey Watson Playground, enter off Kings Park Road.

Also includes a celebration of the annual Kings Park Wildflower festival.

Visit: <https://www.friendsofkingspark.com.au/friends-plant-sales/>

Sept 16 - 17 **Building Private Land Conservation Symposium.** 8.30am - 5.30pm.

Backed by the WA Better by Nature campaign, don't miss this chance to shape the future of private land conservation in WA.

Visit: <https://betterbynature.org.au/symposium/>

Sept 17 - 18 **Regenerative Food Systems Conference 2025.** 8.30am - 3.30pm.

OPTUS Stadium, Perth.

This conference will provide a comprehensive exploration of our food systems – tracing the journey from food production to its environmental impact, and how the quality of food directly influences our health. Together, we will address the pressing challenges faced by farmers and our food system, while identifying the key changes needed to future-proof the system for a sustainable and healthier future.

Visit: <https://regenwapresents.com/>

Sept 23 - 25 **Dieback Information Group (DIG) Conference 2025.** 8.30am - 6pm.

Murdoch University, Boorloo, Perth.

This year's conference theme "Strength in Our Roots" – emphasises the vital role of grassroots leadership and community empowerment in environmental biosecurity.

Visit: <https://www.dwg.org.au/dig-2025/>





## Events coming up...

### Oct 1 - 2 **Holistic Management Workshop.**

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.

Visit: <https://events.humanitix.com/peel-holistic-management-workshop-program-empowering-people-to-shape-the-future-of-regenerative-nature-based-farming-together>

### Oct 11 **Wetlands Festival.** 8.30am to 12.30pm.

Save The Date – Saturday 11th October!

Join us for another exciting Wetlands Festival with a full program of fun and engaging activities for the whole family to enjoy. This annual event is a great opportunity to come and explore nature and learn about our wonderful Wetlands.

Experience a fantastic community celebration featuring markets, food vendors, live music, interactive activities, a dog breakfast, and so much more. Don't miss out on the fun - mark your calendars and save the date!

We are currently taking EOI to be involved as a stall holder or food vendor – applications to: [karen.lyons@peel-harvey.org.au](mailto:karen.lyons@peel-harvey.org.au)

Visit: <https://www.facebook.com/share/1BXAbj8Qfc/>

### Oct 11 **The Waroona Agriculture Show.** 8.30am to 8.30pm.

Visit: <https://www.facebook.com/WaroonaShow>

### Oct 25 **Luca's Legacy Clean Up.** 8.30am.

Dawesville. For details email [Jason.menziews@dbca.wa.gov.au](mailto:Jason.menziews@dbca.wa.gov.au)

### Oct 28 - 30 **The Biodiversity Conference 2025 - Nature Positive.** 9am - 5pm.

UWA Club, Crawley.

Visit: <https://www.biodiversity2025.com/>

### Nov 5 **Nature Play Time.** 10am - 10.45am.

Lakelands Library.

Fun for kids with activities, games and story-time designed to inspire wonder and curiosity about the natural world and introduce young minds to nature's beauty and diversity.

### Nov 5 **CCWA Annual Conference - Nature First.** 7.30am - 5pm.

The Wetlands Centre, 184 Hope Road, Bibra Lake.

Visit: [https://www.ccwa.org.au/save\\_the\\_date\\_2025\\_conference](https://www.ccwa.org.au/save_the_date_2025_conference)

### Nov 12 - 13 **Environmental Volunteer Workshop.** 5pm - 7pm.

These free workshops are held every quarter.

Mandurah Seniors Centre

Visit: <https://www.mandurah.wa.gov.au/explore/whats-on/calendar>





## Events coming up...

Nov 20 **Bindjareb Djilba (Peel-Harvey Estuary) Forum.** 4pm to 6pm.

Peel Thunder Stadium. For details email [karen.lyons@peel-harvey.org.au](mailto:karen.lyons@peel-harvey.org.au)

Every Friday **Guided Heritage Walks of Mandurah.** 11am - 12noon.

Discover the City's history with a free foreshore heritage walking tour. This leisurely walk starts and finishes at Mandurah Museum.

Bookings are required. Email [museum@mandurah.wa.gov.au](mailto:museum@mandurah.wa.gov.au) to book a session or phone (08) 9550 3682.

Every Friday **Paddle up the River.**

We will be combining paddling with wildlife observation and learning about riverine habitat in conjunction with Canoe Trail Friends and Friends of the Rivers.

Suitable for beginners. Free hire of life jackets available (available in various sizes).

Register your interest by emailing [info@mehg.org.au](mailto:info@mehg.org.au)

Coming soon **Bird Watching for Beginners with Robyn Devenish.**

Coming soon to a nature reserve near you. Small-group activity.

Binoculars provided courtesy of City of Mandurah community grants.

Register your interest by emailing [info@mehg.org.au](mailto:info@mehg.org.au)



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)

