

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.



Hollow logs for chuditch not foxes!

Hollow logs and fallen tree limbs provide important refuges for threatened species and are a great place to set up fauna monitoring cameras, unfortunately foxes and cats also frequent these to search for prey.

A large hollow log was installed by a landholder in an important linkage to Dryandra Woodland National Park and a monitoring camera was installed to find out what fauna were utilising the log. It was exciting to see that a chuditch *Dasyurus geoffroi* was captured on camera! Chuditch are a threatened species with a conservation status of Vulnerable and are one of the secondary investment priorities for the Numbat Neighbourhood Project. There are a number of factors that have contributed to the chuditch decline including land clearing, removal of suitable den sites and logs and also predation by feral cats and foxes.

The hollow log was also visited numerous times by foxes. One fox could be seen going into the log and also urinating on the log to mark its territory. Foxes in Australia kill about 300 million native animals each year including 107 million mammals. Foxes are also estimated to cost the Australian agriculture industry \$200 million each year. The fox sighting has been passed on to our pest animal control contractor who conducts 30 hours of fox and feral cat control on farmland surrounding Dryandra Woodland National Park each month. Hopefully next time the camera is checked we'll have more chuditch and less foxes!

If you need help controlling foxes and feral cats on your property or would like advice on hollows please contact PHCC's Farmers for Fauna Coordinator via email christine.townsend@peel-harvey.org.au

For more information on foxes and their control visit <https://invasives.org.au/meet-the-invaders/foxes/>



A chuditch captured on monitoring camera



Above and Below: Foxes captured on monitoring camera



Checking in at Koompkinning - Pumphreys Bridge

It's time to circle back to Koompkinning (Pumphreys Bridge), where we have continued to nurture the focal areas on the banks next to the campground, and downstream where the Hotham River winds through the Pumphreys Historic Homestead property.

After planting advanced trees along the river at the campground in June 2024, there have been a few losses via drowning during the first winter, and a tree-rustling (yes, a tree was stolen). But they are still hanging on, and using hardy local species like *Casuarina obesa* - sheoak, *Eucalyptus rudis* - flooded gum, and *Melaleuca raphiophylla* - paperbark - has helped. The smaller sedges and rushes that have also been planted in 2024 and 2025 are noticeably taller, which makes the ongoing weed control much easier than when individual seedlings need to be marked out so as not to accidentally spray them. We've also noticed some natural regeneration of samphires and saltbush, which is very encouraging because it tells us that there is viable seed in the soil, and regular weed control efforts will continue to nurture natural regeneration in the long term.

Weeds and long hot summers are always a challenge, and it certainly helps that people do the right thing when visiting Pumphreys Bridge – taking care when walking in the revegetation area next to the river, and even pulling out the odd weed or two.

PHCC continues to work with the Wilman (Dryandra) People Corporation, who are Elders and Knowledge-Holders for the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage site at Koompkinning. Over the coming months, we will be planning signs, and working with the Shire of Wandering on the installation of some new picnic infrastructure.

If you see us working on the river, come and say hi - we'd be happy to show you the little things at the site that are hard to see at the moment, but we hope will grow and thrive – like the little self-germinating samphire in the photo

This project is in partnership with the Wilman (Dryandra) People Corporation.



Revegetation on the campground



Revegetation on the banks



Self-germinated seedlings

What's happening...

**Conservation Council
of WA 2025 Annual
Conference - Soliphilia**

Cockburn

Date: 12 & 13 November

Visit: https://www.ccwa.org.au/2025_conference

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