

# Landcare matters

Lake Clifton Sub-catchment



PHCC  
Working Together

Edition 27  
December 2025



Welcome to the 26th 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.



## World for Woodlands and Carnaby Black Cockatoo Projects helping to restore properties around Herron, Lake Clifton and West Coolup

Over the next six months, our World for Woodlands and Carnaby Black Cockatoo Projects have plenty of exciting on-ground works planned for properties at Herron, Lake Clifton and West Coolup. Upcoming restoration activities planned for these areas include:

- 4.5 km of fencing and 2 access control structures to exclude rabbits and stock from Tuart and Banksia Woodland areas
- 9 ha of revegetation of species common to Tuart and Banksia Woodland TEC (Threatened Ecological Community), including important forage and breeding species for Carnaby Black Cockatoos. Several of these revegetation projects are also incorporating native grass seed
- 30 ha of weed control, mainly targeting arum lily and grassy weeds
- 105 ha of pest control – part of our Lake Clifton Herron Rabbit Blitz

- 5 habitat augmentation structures installed, including 1 water station for Black Cockatoos (and other native fauna), 1 Cockatube for Carnaby Black Cockatoos and 2 Western Ringtail Possum habitat boxes. The World for Woodlands Project will also maintain the Possum box at the Lake Clifton Community Centre, installed by Simon Cherriman during a recent nestbox workshop

Thank you to all landholders who submitted an application for funding to protect and restore Tuart Woodlands, Banksia Woodlands and important breeding and foraging habitat for Carnaby Black Cockatoos. The team are looking forward to continue working with you to help achieve our shared goals of reversing biodiversity loss and combatting climate change in our local area.

[https://peel-harvey.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/Banksia-Project\\_2024\\_Final.pdf](https://peel-harvey.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/Banksia-Project_2024_Final.pdf)



Maintenance planned for the possum box installed by Simon Cherriman at the Lake Clifton Community Centre



Recent arum lily control at a West Coolup property (works undertaken by GP Forestry, PHCC and the Winjan Bindjareb Boodja Rangers)

## Please remember to maintain your fresh water sources for wildlife this summer



The birds, small mammals, insects and other wildlife that are attracted to your garden or bushland need a fresh water source to survive. You can install a birdbath, pond, simple water feature or even a water dish left out and cleaned

daily, to help keep your critters hydrated. Remember though not to put water stations near roads, to reduce risk of vehicle strikes.

This summer, the days and nights are warmer than usual throughout most of Western Australia, making fresh water supply more important. By maintaining a consistent supply of fresh water, you help create a thriving ecosystem that supports a wide range of animals.

Supported by our Carnaby Black Cockatoo Project, this landholder has upgraded their watering station (see image).



Fresh water station for Black Cockatoos

### *Nuytsia floribunda* – The Sacred Flame of Moodjar in Bloom

Each summer, the bushland ignites with the golden blaze of *Nuytsia floribunda*, known locally as Moodjar—the sacred ‘tree of souls’. This striking tree, often called the Western Australian Christmas Tree, rises above the native canopy with its golden summer blooms, adding both beauty and ecological function. In Lake Clifton and beyond, its fiery blooms are more than just seasonal beauty—they mark the approach of Christmas, and are a living connection to Country.

Within Banksia and Tuart Woodlands of the Swan Coastal Plain, *Nuytsia floribunda* plays a quiet but vital role in sustaining biodiversity. As a root parasite, it connects underground with surrounding plants, subtly influencing nutrient cycles and supporting woodland resilience. Its presence in these Threatened Ecological Communities is a sign of health and continuity, linking ancient cultural stories with modern conservation efforts. In a landscape shaped by disruption, development and ongoing environmental

pressures, Moodjar stands as a symbol of survival, adaptation and community connection.

Moodjar trees have a significant cultural importance in Noongar culture. They are a sacred place where Noongar women give birth. They play an important role in a Noongar person’s passing and reconnection with their ancestors. Revered in Noongar lore and admired for its radiant display, Moodjar transforms the landscape into a shimmering celebration of life, memory, and renewal.

The presence of Moodjar reminds us that beauty in nature is never just ornamental—it’s deeply rooted in story, culture, and connection. By protecting *Nuytsia floribunda* and the ecosystems it supports, we are conserving not only the biodiversity of our region, but also the enduring cultural wisdom of Noongar Country. In doing so, we help ensure that future generations can witness this sacred tree in bloom.



*Nuytsia floribunda* by Tracey Hudson

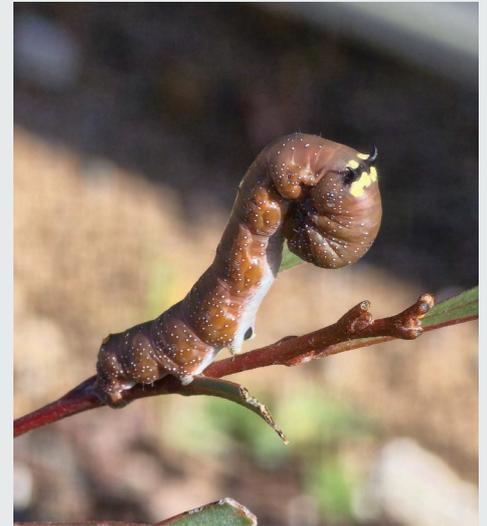
### Pink-bellied Moth Caterpillar (*Oenochroma vinaria*)

We had some visitors on our *Hakea laurina* at our office recently!

Meet the Pink-bellied Moth Caterpillar (*Oenochroma vinaria*).

They are camouflaged and difficult to see on the stems of the plant, as they are almost exactly the same colour.

These caterpillars feed on most species of *Hakea* and are common across the Southwest of WA and Southeastern areas of Australia. If you find this moth in your garden, record its occurrence at [ala.org.au](http://ala.org.au). While the hungry Caterpillars had a good feed on our *Hakea*, the plant quickly recovered once it emerged as moth and moved on to become an important food source for native fauna, especially for native microbats, birds and frogs!



Pink-bellied Moth Caterpillar (photos by Tracey Hudson)



### Holiday Activities: Clay Block Bee Hotel

Clay block bee hotels attract native bees that nest in clay, sand or bare soil. They are very easy to make. Here is a tutorial from the Biodiversity Council so you can make your own at home.

What you need: Clay, Sand, Container, Pencil or Stick and Water

1. Create a mixture of clay and sand and pack it into something like a concrete building block or durable container.
2. Using a stick or pencil, poke shallow holes into the clay-sand mixture.
3. Ground-nesting bees like blue-banded bees love to nest together, so place clay block hotels in groups of around ten. Place hotels near patches of unmulched bare ground in the garden as some ground nesting species will prefer to make their own homes.
4. Put a roof on your hotel to keep your bees nice and dry. Make sure the roof covers the holes and openings in your hotel, but doesn't block out too much sunlight.
5. Choosing the perfect spot for your hotel is easy, but keep in mind that bees enjoy the sunlight. Avoid placing your hotel on the south-side of buildings, which are often shaded in Australia, or in darker areas of your garden. Bees also like to wake up with the sun, so face hotel openings towards the north-east to delight them with a sunrise.
6. All good hotels have plenty of restaurants close by. Plant native wildflowers such as native daisies (Asteraceae), and flowering shrubs and trees such as myrtles (Myrtaceae), native peas (Fabaceae), and Banksias (Proteaceae). Exotic plants like salvia and lavender are also good food for Blue-banded bees, but most native bees will rarely use exotic species.
7. At the end of winter, before the weather warms up, your guests should have packed up and left the hotel (signified by a small exit hole on a once capped hole). You can easily tidy up with a pipe cleaner to remove any debris, dead cells and spider webs.

If you want more information on how to build a variety of bee hotels, see this informative 7-minute video with bee-man Clancy Lester and the Biodiversity Council: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Q-3tUNpZi0>

For serious bee lovers, we have an event coming your way soon! Supported under our World for Woodlands Project, a local native bee scientist (Dr Kit Prendergast - aka The Bee Babette) will be hosting a workshop in Dawesville on 30 April 2026. <https://www.trybooking.com/DISOA>



### Events coming up...

4th Friday of each month	<b>Bird Watching</b> Outings at month at various locations with the Mandurah Bird Observers Group. <a href="https://www.mandurahbirdobserversgroup.com/">https://www.mandurahbirdobserversgroup.com/</a>
Saturdays & Tuesdays	<b>Mandurah Community Gardens</b> is open to the public on Saturdays 9.30am to 11.30am and on Tuesdays 3pm to 5pm. <a href="https://www.mandurahcommunitygardens.com.au/#:~:text=Public%20Visiting%20Hours">https://www.mandurahcommunitygardens.com.au/#:~:text=Public%20Visiting%20Hours</a>
Every Friday from 10.00am – 10.45am	<b>Nature Play Time</b> at 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, nurturing a deep love for the great outdoors.  Enjoy craft activities using resources from the natural environment, encouraging creativity while connecting with nature's elements.  Learn about the importance of protecting and preserving our world, instilling a sense of appreciation and responsibility towards cherishing our planet's wellbeing. Find out more: <a href="https://www.mandurah.wa.gov.au/explore/whats-on/calendar/libraries/nature-play-time">https://www.mandurah.wa.gov.au/explore/whats-on/calendar/libraries/nature-play-time</a>
Every Friday from 11am – 12pm	<b>Guided Heritage Walks of Mandurah</b> Discover the City's history with a free foreshore heritage walking tour. This leisurely walk starts and finishes at Mandurah Museum and provides information on the history of Mandurah's pioneer settlers and an accurate portrayal of life as it once was.  The informative narration showcases the past, the present, Mandurah's indigenous cultural history, places of interest, pioneer families, their homes and their stories, community art installations and much more.  Bookings essential. Find out more and book your free place: <a href="https://www.mandurah.wa.gov.au/explore/mandurah-museum/mandurah-heritage-trails">https://www.mandurah.wa.gov.au/explore/mandurah-museum/mandurah-heritage-trails</a>

Want to contribute an article about your property in the next Lake Clifton Landcare Matters?

Please send your photos or 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/>

