

Landcare matters

Hotham-Williams sub-catchment update



PHCC Working Together
Peel-Harvey Catchment Council

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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.



Green Card Training

Thank you to the 14 community members, landholders and PHCC staff who recently attended Green Card training in Boddington to learn skills to apply biosecurity hygiene when working in natural areas. Phytophthora dieback is one of the threats discussed in the course that can have a devastating impact to bushland areas by reducing biodiversity, food and shelter for native fauna.

The practical component of the training involved effectively washing down and inspecting a vehicle to ensure that weed seeds and pathogens such as dieback are not being transported into sensitive bushland areas. Thank you to Joe and Josh from Terratree for travelling to Boddington to deliver the course and the Boddington Shire for allowing us to use their depot for the wash down demonstration.



Green Card Training in Boddington



Vehicle wash down to remove soil and weed seeds

Birds On Farms Relunched

Back from a 25 year hiatus BirdLife Australia's Birds on Farms project has re-launched in WA!

In 1995 Birds Australia inaugurated the Birds on Farms project, aiming to answer important questions about bird distribution, population health and habitat use on private rural land.

Over a two-year period, 110 farms were surveyed in WA by 138 volunteers, recording a total of 179 bird species. Now, after 25 years the Birds on Farms Project is being relaunched to build upon the successes of the original 1990s Project.

The Project aims to engage with landholders and birdwatchers particularly in the WA wheatbelt to identify bird species, their behaviour, ecology, and habitat use.

Surveys are done seasonally at 2 ha sites within farms, with the help of experienced birdwatchers and interested landholders.

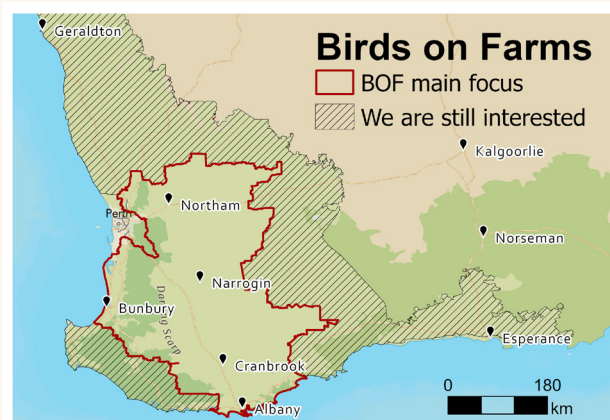


Image: BirdLife Australia

If this sounds like something you'd like to be involved in register your interest for the project here: <https://arcg.is/iHy90>

PHCC will be hosting a Birds on Farms Workshop on the 9th June in Boddington.

For more information and to secure your place visit: <https://peel-harvey.org.au/events/birds-on-farms-workshop/>

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HRNR 3-Old weir_P. Narducci

Lost River?

Many of you would follow one or more of the 'Lost' pages, which share breadcrumb trails about places and people in the past that live on in photo albums and peoples' memories.

Some of the photos you see here are from the Lost Pingelly Facebook page, reminiscing about the weir (now in ruins) on the Hotham River where it flows past the Hotham River Nature Reserve. Just 8km south of Pingelly, it was the site of the original town water supply and there was a pool nearby that was often used by locals for swimming, picnics and other gatherings.

The Hotham River at this location is one of the eight restoration sites we have been telling you about, which are all part of the Hotham-Williams River Action Plan (RAP).

The channel of the Hotham River here is wide in parts, transitioning to a highly active meandering form, with eroding and retreating banks and considerable sediment deposition. Riparian vegetation has been impacted by the highly saline water and is dominated by scattered trees and exotic ground covers. Salt-loving samphires have provided some stability and habitat by colonising the bed and banks. Also the gorgeous ruby saltbush (pictured).

The Hotham-Williams River Action Plan is a long term project and although this site is not in our initial priority projects, eventually as funding is available, our intention is to carry out weed control, revegetation and bank stabilisation as well as coordination of protective fencing with the neighbouring properties.

Although not what it once was, the Hotham River still provides a picnic spot during a visit to the Nature Reserve, particularly during the shoulder seasons of 'first dew' and 'flowering'.

Photos of the weir have been taken by Peter Narducci.



HRNR 3-Old weir. Image: P. Narducci



HRNR-Old weir. Image: P. Narducci



Ruby Saltbush

Events...

Birds on Farms

Join us for an afternoon full of information about the re-launched Birds on Farms project

9 June 2023 at 2.00pm

Registration essential

Visit <https://peel-harvey.org.au/events/birds-on-farms-workshop/>