

# Landcare matters

Hotham-Williams sub-catchment update



PHCC Working Together  
Peel-Harvey Catchment Council

Edition 80  
October 2023



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.



## Regen Ag community healthy and growing

What a time our team had in Margaret River at the 2023 Regen Ag Conference hearing from experts in RegenAg from across the state, Australia and internationally, sharing their knowledge and highlighting the opportunities that new forms of farming present to our community.

Distilling a week of field trips, lectures and networking is impossible, but there were several main threads that ran through the whole event:

- Healthy communities are essential to support Agriculture, whether they be bacterial and fungal communities, plant communities or communities of growers, sellers and customers. There is strength in diversity and support to be had from gathering like-minded communities around us.
- Rethinking how we farm should be embraced. New practices, technologies, markets and resources are increasingly available to farmers, and to

ensure ongoing access to markets, good prices and sustainable businesses, embracing new ways of thinking will be essential.

- Food ain't food. Nutrient density, knowing where food is produced, understanding the carbon footprint of produce and whether a product is organic, carbon-neutral or biodynamic are all important to the consumer and emerging markets.
- Changing practice is hard but worth it. Learn from others, start small and make mistakes, surround yourself with others who are also changing and don't hesitate to try new things if they make sense to you. Science doesn't know all the answers – it might have to catch up later.

There is so much more to do to support mainstream adoption of regenerative agricultural practices, but the sector is increasingly

understanding the benefits to production and our farming landscapes. For landholders wanting to make a transition away from traditional agriculture there is a lot of support, which will help mitigate some of the risks in transition.

PHCC is excited to have been able to make more networks and connections with farmers, suppliers and groups in the Regen Ag space last week, and we are looking forward to continuing to support farmers in our region undertake productive, sustainable food and fiber production in a landscape that supports a diversity of life and livelihoods in the future.

If you have a question about Regen Ag please email us at [hotham-williams@peel-harvey.org.au](mailto:hotham-williams@peel-harvey.org.au) or call or 6369 8801 to speak to one of our Agriculture team.

For more information on the conference visit [www.regen2023.com.au](http://www.regen2023.com.au)



Conference attendees



Rob Harris, PHCC Board Member and PHCC's Mick Davis

# Landcare matters

Hotham-Williams sub-catchment update

## Seedlings for the Williams River

Two planting efforts in the past month have put 1000 seedlings in the ground near the Albany Highway Bridge on the Williams River in Williams. Thanks must go to the Wildlife Warriors (and trusty parent helpers), and the Williams Environmental Group for their hard work in making it happen.

This is the 'first pass' planting at the River Action Plan site, which is one of eight in the Hotham-Williams sub-catchment. Just two species were chosen at this early stage, *Juncus subsecundus* and *Melaleuca raphiophylla*. Both of them are local to the area and salt tolerant, which is necessary due to the high salinity levels in the river. *J. subsecundus* is a sedge, which is a grass-like perennial herb that is growing beautifully upstream of the planting site. We hope it will do the same in the newly planted area, although the ground immediately next to the bridge is extremely compacted and the holes were very difficult to dig! The sedge is relatively low-growing and will still provide a view of the river for visitors to the spot, which is popular for travelers. *M. raphiophylla* is also growing happily nearby and these were planted amongst the sedges to (eventually) give much-needed shade to the banks and the river itself. The seedlings are currently very small tube stock size, which survive better than more mature seedlings when planted in-situ.

Revegetation is a tricky business! It is not uncommon to lose half the seedlings in the first summer, and it really is a case of adding more every year to ensure a net increase in vegetation over time. It will help if spring brings us a few rain events so that the ground doesn't dry out too quickly, and there is the added complication of the compacted ground we mentioned!

*This project is funded through partnerships with both South32 Worsley Alumina and Newmont Australia (Boddington).*



PHCC's Kristy Gregory with the Wildlife Warriors

## Coming up:

**Wonders of the Wetlands Festival**  
Saturday 14 October 2023

Visit our website for more details:

<https://peel-harvey.org.au/events/wonders-of-our-wetlands-festival/>

Don't miss our annual event!



**Do you have a NRM event or information you would like us to promote?**

Please contact us on 6369 8801 or 0455 166 780



[victoria.brockhurst@peel-harvey.org.au](mailto:victoria.brockhurst@peel-harvey.org.au)

[www.peel-harvey.org.au](http://www.peel-harvey.org.au)

These projects are supported by the Peel-Harvey Catchment Council through funding from Newmont Boddington, South32 Worsley Alumina and the Shires of Boddington, Cuballing, Wandering and Williams

