

# Landcare matters

Hotham-Williams sub-catchment update



PHCC Working Together  
Peel-Harvey Catchment Council

Edition 82  
December 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.



## Targeted weeding to support native seedlings

PHCC staff, Kristy and Victoria were joined by Newmont volunteers, Jordan and Paul at Williams River which is one of eight River Action Plan (RAP) sites in the Hotham-Williams sub catchment.

The day's task was to locate and remove rye grass and other invasive species the manual way! This site has already undergone revegetation efforts in addition to carefully targeted weed spraying throughout the year. A select few areas of riparian vegetation had been left untouched from herbicide application to protect the native couch (*Sporobolus virginicus*) growing naturally, and the native seedlings planted in July. Capturing the precise moment before the rye grass had set seed, we manually removed it from these areas to minimise future spread. Sometimes a little extra effort (from the care taken by our weed control contractor and our weed-pulling volunteers) can go a long way in allowing native species to prosper and grow.

### To water or not?

There are advocates of not watering at all when it comes to revegetation with native species. A proportion of seedlings will always be lost during the first summer (some sites more than others) and those can be replaced on an annual basis to gradually revegetate an area. Others might choose to water seedlings only a few times over the first summer when temperatures are forecast to push 40 degrees for several days.

We chose to water some of the seedlings at the Williams RAP site during the weeding effort for a number of reasons including the current heat wave, highly compacted (and structure-less) saline soil conditions, easy access to the river water nearby, and people power to cart buckets!

*This project is funded through partnerships with South32 Worsley Alumina, Newmont and Shire of Williams.*



Paul and Victoria collecting water



Paul, Jordan and Kristy watering sedges



Weeding amongst native vegetation

## Happier, Healthier Pet Cats

Research indicates<sup>1</sup> that cats can live their happiest and healthiest lives if they are kept contained and can live up to 4 times longer than cats allowed to roam. By keeping pet cats safe in your home or in a catio you will reduce the risk of your cat from;

- Contracting a disease including Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV)
- Being run over by a vehicle
- Fighting with other cats or dogs
- Eating poison including rat bait and 1080 baits
- Being bitten by a snake
- Getting lost
- Visiting your neighbours property



Happy cats

Pet cats that are contained are significantly less likely to become injured and require vet treatment. It is also a cats natural instinct to hunt so by containing your cat you will also be protecting WA's unique native fauna.

1. [https://www.geocatch.asn.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Catio\\_Brochure\\_2022.pdf](https://www.geocatch.asn.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Catio_Brochure_2022.pdf)

## Coming up...

Feb/March (date TBC) - Landscape Re-hydration Field Day in partnership with Mulloon Consulting. Watch this space and our [Facebook](#) page for updates.



The Boddington office will be closed from Monday 25th December and will re-open on Monday 8th January 2024!

We wish our Hotham-Williams community a safe and very happy Christmas.

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

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