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Welcome to our eNews! Oyster Harbour Catchment Group's Noongar seasonal newsletter will keep you up-to-date on the big stories affecting the catchment and what we are up to. *We acknowledge the Minang Bibbulmun people as the traditional custodians of the land on which we work and live. We pay our respects to the Elders, past, present, and emerging and to the wider Bibbulmun community.*

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Issued: 23/8/2021



What's Been Happening in Oyster Harbour Catchment *Djilba E-Newsletter*

First Spring: August-September

Season of conception: A mixture of wet days with an increasing number of clear, cold nights and pleasantly warm days

Sidebar Content:

[Upcoming event](#)
[OHCG Membership](#)
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Main Stories:

- [Monitoring and containing the weed invasion](#)
- [Southern Beef Field Walk](#)
- [Opportunities in a Changing Climate](#)

[Up-coming](#)
[Dijlba Events](#)

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Sat 21st Aug
9 am at the lower King Store
txt Jo 0428241225 for more
info



[OHCG Committee Meeting](#)

Thu Aug 26th
1 pm -4 pm
Come along and have
afternoon tea with us

Join us for a few hours on
Thursday to meet and
chat to some amazing local
people working in Landcare
and agriculture. You can just
come and listen or you can
use this as an opportunity
to contribute/ help direct
actions of the catchment
group and see if you
want to join the committee.

Overall it's a great afternoon
where we chat and share
knowledge; trials, tribulations
and successes in agriculture,
conservation and adopting
best practice.

If you're interested in coming
to this but the time doesn't
work for you please let me
know:
communications@ohcg.org.au

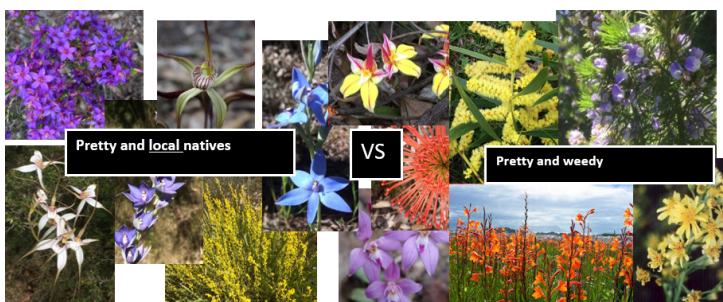


[Cattle Weaning Workshop presented by Nutrien Livestock and Southern Beef](#)

Tue 31st Aug
1:00pm - 3:30pm

Discussions will be
held around: Best Practise
Weaning /
Nutrition/Health Treatments
and
Market Opportunities

Industry Representatives;
Beachport – Gemma Oldfield
Virbac – Darren Hendry



[Monitoring and Containing Weed Invasion](#)

My beautiful archive and discovery team have
been amazing and a lot of fun to work with. We
have gone through 45 governance and project files
so far, learning something new every day. Not
including the many digital files that I'm slowly
trawling through.our past weed treatment GPS
files.

Invasive weeds are among the most serious
threats to Australia's natural environment
and primary production industries. We have many
weed species present in the Oyster Harbour
Catchment including Sydney golden wattle, gorse,
blackberry, African love grass, bridal creeper etc.
These weeds displace native species, contribute
significantly to land degradation, and reduce farm
and forest productivity. For example, Bridal
Creeper has a real potential to invade the Stirling
Ranges from adjacent roads and farmland. It could
not be controlled within the Stirling Range National
Park area, so it is critical to control it mainly on
road verges. Without continuous management, the
outcomes of previous weed control projects and
surrounding areas are at risk of further infestation.
Some of our actions over a decade of weed control
can be seen in the below picture spreading
throughout the catchment.

We need your help to see if these weeds have

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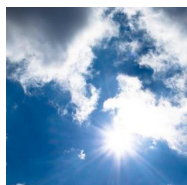
Q&A on Weaning Practices
from Local Cattle Producers
and Feedlotters

Presenters: Bronwyn Fowler-
Nutrien Ag Solutions Animal
Health,
Nutrition & Production
Specialist
Bridie Luers- Nutrien Ag
Solutions
Vet Animal Production,
Technical
Services Advisor

Any questions, please
contact- sheena.smith@ohcg.org.au

Albany Social Bird Watching Walk

Tuesday 14 September,
Albany birdlife group outing.
Meet at 8am at the Lower King
Bridge parking area.

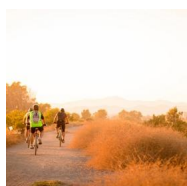


World Ozone Day

Thu Sep 16th

The ozone layer, a fragile
shield of gas, protects the
Earth from the harmful portion
of the rays of the sun, thus
helping preserve life on the
planet.

The phaseout of controlled
uses of ozone-depleting
substances and the related
reductions have not only
helped protect the ozone layer
for this and future generations
but have also contributed
significantly to global efforts to
address climate change;
furthermore, it has protected
human health and ecosystems
by limiting the harmful
ultraviolet radiation from
reaching the earth.



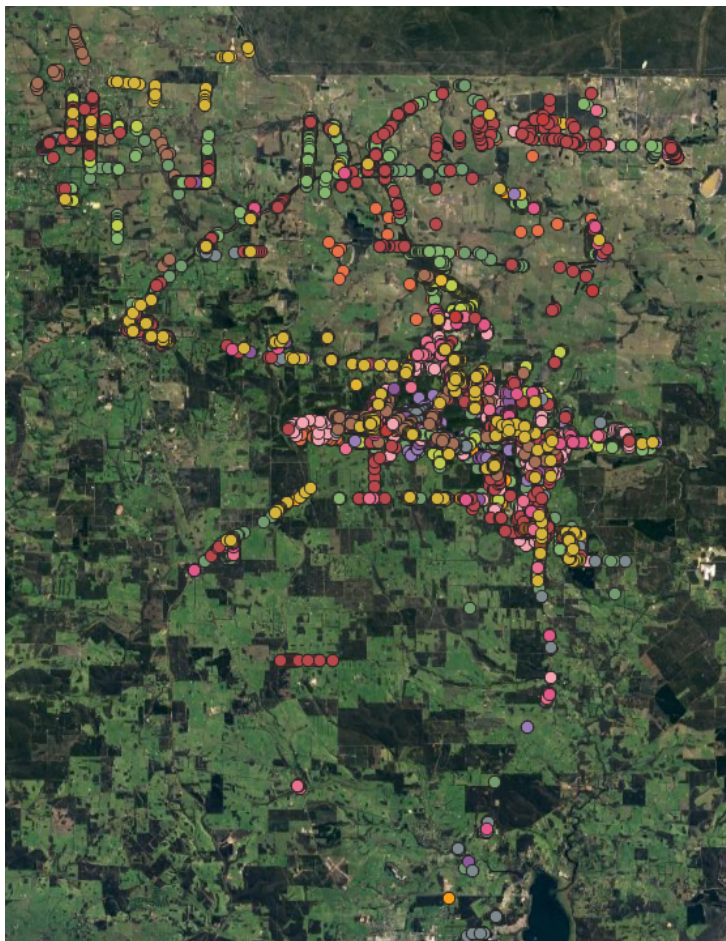
Zero emissions day

Tue Sep 21st

Also referred to as ZeDay, the
initiative started back in 2008

Please download the MyPestGuide Reporter app
on your phone and report sightings while you're out
and
about. <https://www.agric.wa.gov.au/apps/mypestguide-reporter>

If you have any free time, are interested in history
or just want to hang out with some great people
please contact me Sayah at
communications@ohcg.org.au and join the Archive
and Discovery team.



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#ZeroEmissionsDay #zeday

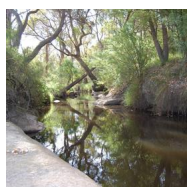
[OHCG Committee Meeting](#)

Thu Sep 23rd

1 pm- 4 pm

Come along and have
afternoon tea with us

If you're interested in coming to this but the time doesn't work for you please let me know:
communications@ohcg.org.au

[World Rivers Day](#)

Sun Sep 26th

World Rivers Day is a celebration of the world's waterways. It highlights the many values of rivers and strives to increase public awareness and encourages the improved stewardship of rivers around the world. Spend some time today celebrate, protecting or just spending some time on our local King and Kalbar rivers.

[National Op Shop Week](#)

Mon Sep 27th 8:00 am -

Sat Oct 2nd 5:00 pm

This week seeks to raise awareness of the important role of charity op shops in our community and to boost donations of quality clothing and household goods to charity op shops. Boost charity op shop sales and recognise the tremendous work of the volunteers and staff dedicated to supporting their charity op shop.

[Southern Beef Field Walks](#)

On Tuesday the 2nd of August, over fifty producers gathered together to talk about the opportunities for spring-sown summer forage crops at our last field walk. Producers were particularly keen to investigate the possibility of Spring forage crops due to the wet season.

The field walk was held at Willyung Farms where *Raphano brassica* is used for backgrounding cattle before heading to be finished on feed. Sandy Lyon said "Brassica fits nicely into their program delivering what they needed through weight gain/days grazing"

Local Elders Agronomist James Bee and Nathan Tognela from PGG Wrightson Seeds delivered information on Brassica, Millet, Sorghum, and mixed species cover crops options best suited to the district. Depending on the producer's requirements and best management practices of species throughout the growing season.

Sandy led the group through a paddock of Raphano mixed with oats. This mix allows the cattle to acquire a taste for the species and prepare their digestive system for the 100% Raphano. One of the key messages was to maximize weight gain once you placed cattle on Raphano is having enough paddocks for constant Raphano grazing. Cattle did not respond well to being removed off Raphano, being placed onto regular pasture then returning to the Raphano due to having to prepare their guts. The Raphano on Willyung Farms that is now in the second year of production Sandy explained the grazing and management history and the plan for the upcoming season.

Discussions around the benefits of weed management

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shops in both Mount Barker and Albany that deserves support and use.

Website:

OpShopWeek.com.au

Renew Your Membership

only \$11 for individuals
[see here](#)

<https://www.ohcg.org.au/online-membership-application.html>



Your membership helps foster a prosperous, vibrant community for present and future generations within the Oyster Harbour Catchment through encouraging best-practice natural resource management and supporting vital “hands-on” activities such as revegetation, workshops, community meetings, and educational trails.

In return not only are you supporting a great local cause but you also get:

- > EXCLUSIVE FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES
- > ACCESS OUR PAST LEARNINGS AND EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES
- > NETWORKING AND INFORMATION SHARING
- > REGULAR E-NEWSLETTER
- > VOTING RIGHTS

We are currently running 6 projects in the catchment.

ohcg.org.au

If you wish to be a part of the; Holistic Property Planning, REI's Healthy Estuaries Initiative, uPtake trials, National Landcare Partnership, South Beef working group, Investigation of local historic NRM and/or Plantagenet Shire weed control projects as a volunteer or landholder.

We also heavily support two

A huge thank you to the Elders team for the BBQ with light refreshments at the walk's conclusion, allowing much more discussion to carry on. If you would like to be notified of any upcoming southern beef events, please TEXT 0427 214 707 with your name.



Opportunities in a Changing Climate

One of the most successful OHCG/Southern beef events we have had was held on 6 August – the Opportunities in a Changing Climate workshop at DPIRD Albany/Motel le Grande. The event was booked out with 80 attendees filling the venue.

Its popularity was probably due to the range of topics and high-profile speakers. These included Neil Bennett (very entertaining ex BOM) *Weather Patterns of WA*, Adam Lillicrap (DPIRD) *Water Supply and Security*, Paul Sanford (DPIRD) *Meeting Pasture Feed Gaps*, Richard Harper (Murdoch Uni) *Carbon sequestration* and Dean Revell (Select Carbon) *Carbon farming - is it for you?* All the talks were well received and highlighted the relationship between climate,

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Cat Working group and the Southern Beef growers group. Please check our website for more information or contact us directly.

[Other Help Available](#)

Water Audit Rebate:
Up to \$1000 to check your farm's water supply coming into summer <https://www.water.wa.gov.au/planning-for-the-future/rural-water-support/farm-water-supply-planning-scheme>

Mental Health Assistance, R U OK? regional mental health
<https://www.ruok.org.au/findhelp>

You can find more grant and funding opportunities from the following websites:

[Business.gov.au](https://business.gov.au)
[The Australian Government Disaster Assist website](#) provides information on financial assistance available for current disasters and information on previous disasters.
[Caring for our Country Department of Agriculture](#)

[What's in Your Backyard](#)



Stephen Buckle- [Inaturalist](#) observer

[Queen of Sheba \(Thelymitra variegata\)](#)

The Queen of Sheba consists of three regional subspecies. They are distinguished mainly by flower colour and distribution, but there is considerable variation in colour in all three species. The Southern Queen of Sheba (*Thelymitra variegata*) typically has 2 to 6 flowers. It is found

improve production over the coming years. There was a lot of interest in Carbon Farming and discussion revealed the need for further information – potentially another event required specific to this topic.

After the formal talks, we moved to Motel le Grand for informal discussions over some refreshments and nibbles (thanks again to Motel le Grande!), with some taking the opportunity to stay for dinner with speakers and organisers.

Special thanks to SCNRM for sponsorship and assistance, DPIRD Albany providing the venue, as well as Motel le Grande for sponsoring delicious afternoon tea and providing venue and nibbles for the happy hour. The event also made [GWN news!](#)



[Meeting the Locals](#)

Dolphins are iconic inhabitants of our waterways,

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stripes and spots of pink, blue, yellow and red.

Orchids rely on specific fungi to germinate their microscopic seed, making some species extremely difficult to grow in cultivation.

'The Queen of Sheba did not give up her secrets easily, despite our best efforts, germination continued to result in low seedling numbers', says [Kings Park Research Scientist](#) Dr Belinda Davis.

The team recently were eventually able to extract the symbiotic fungus from the roots of a wild Queen of Sheba plant and then grow the fungus in a petri dish in the lab, before adding orchid seeds collected from wild plants. The breakthrough came from determining the nutritional requirements of the fungus for the first time, ensuring its survival and ultimately the survival of the orchids in laboratory conditions. With this new understanding, the team have been able to germinate Queen of Sheba seedlings in their hundreds for the first time. These plants will be used for seed orcharding and eventual introduction back into the wild.

Historically this orchid grew in the heart of Perth (including the [Kings Park bushland](#)) but the loss of habitat through clearing has eliminated many populations. It is now restricted to a few small and isolated populations between Bunbury and Albany, which have suffered from trampling and poaching by people in recent years.

If you see this plant or anything else you think someone will find interesting take a picture and upload it to [inaturalist](#).

significance. As top predators, they play an important role in coastal ecosystems, and their decline can affect other species, including commercially valuable ones.

If you spend much time on or around Oyster Harbour, chances are you have seen dolphins. But did you know that you are seeing the same dolphins every time?

Recent research has confirmed that Albany's harbours are home to a small population of resident Indo-Pacific bottlenose dolphins. Ranging patterns and sighting rates showed that Oyster Harbour is an important habitat within their home range. Its sheltered waters protect from predators that are particularly important for females with calves, and seagrass beds provide important foraging areas.

Resident dolphins are among the most vulnerable marine animals due to the extensive overlap of their habitat with increasingly busy developed areas and human activities. Life-history characteristics, including being long-lived with low reproductive rates and extended investment in offspring make dolphins particularly vulnerable to pressures and less resilient to recovery. Resident dolphins also have a small home range. The harbours are their home, they really are our nearshore neighbours! This means what we do can have a really big impact on their lives, just as something happening in our back yard impacts us much more than something happening in the next town.

Dolphins differ in appearance just like people. It's easy to identify individuals, once you know what to look for!

Dolphin dorsal fins have notches, scars and differences in size and shape that are as unique as

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)[Bruce Radys](#)**Senior Project Officer:
Healthy Estuaries WA**

Bruce works part-time, oversees, and helps the other staff and works on the Healthy Estuaries WA Program, funded by Royalties for Regions. He aims to improve the quality of water entering the Oyster Harbour through the implementation of fencing and revegetation of riparian vegetation, and working with farmers to implement best practice management, including soil testing in high rainfall areas.

Contact:

bruce.radys@ohcg.org.au
0428 994 408 | 9851 2703

**Sheena Smith
Farm Planning
Project Officer**

Sheena works part-time to manage our farm planning project, helping enable strategic property planning and informing landholders on best-practice

[Sayah Drummond](#)**Communications Officer**

Sayah works part-time to ensure landholders and the wider community are aware of and can be involved in, the many exciting OHCG projects. This includes the maintenance of our [website](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [email](#) list, while also trying to make sure our community/membership interests are reflected in all upcoming works.

Contact:

communications@ohcg.org.au

0408 423 306 | 9851 2703

Using photo-identification, we can determine the size of the population, and monitor whether numbers are changing. Photographing familiar fins year after year can confirm a dolphin is a resident. Finding them in the same place many times can indicate an important habitat.

Understanding the population dynamics, ranging patterns and identifying important habitats in the coastal waters of Albany is critical in allowing us to make good decisions about our own activities to ensure our much-loved dolphins continue to share our harbours for generations to come.

Kristy Alexander

kirsty.alexander@research.uwa.edu.au



[Mount Barker Noongar Ranger's Showcase](#)

On July 8, members of the OHCG Committee and staff attended the NAIDOC celebration at the Mt Barker Aboriginal Centre along with many other community members. The centrepiece of the celebration was the graduation of the Mt Barker Aboriginal Ranger group member who had completed their Cert 2 in Conservation and Land Management. Through this training, the Ranger team members collected seeds, planted out several revegetation sites, gained their chainsaw qualification and other useful licences. It was lovely to see the pride of the graduates in their achievement and hear from them their commitment to learning and caring for the country. For me, a particular joy to watch was the enjoyment of the

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Jenni is very passionate about feral animal control and works part-time facilitating a Feral Cat Project and running the Albany and Surrounds Feral Cat Working Group (ASFCWG). This group concentrates on the issues that we have in and around the catchment with feral cats.

Contact:

jenni.loveland@ohcg.org.au

0409 572 240 | 9851 2703

[What Happened Last Season?](#)

[We Are Nature: Enhancing connections between human and environmental health](#)
Thu Jun 3rd 9:00am - 11:00am

[World Environment Day](#)
Sat Jun 5th

[World Ocean Day](#)
Tue Jun 8th

[World Oceans Day](#)
Tue Jun 8th 6:00am - 6:00pm

[GSDC Medal Dinner](#)
Fri Jun 11th 6:15pm - 10:00pm

[Global Wind Day](#)
Tue Jun 15th
6:00 am - 6:00 pm

[World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought](#)
Thu Jun 17th

[Paperless Farm Office \(Online\)](#)
Mon Jun 21st 9:30am - 12:00pm

[WA Farmers Forum – Livestock, Grains & a National Perspective](#)
Thu Jun 24th 8:00 am - Fri 25th 5:00pm

[Drought Resilience Science to Practice Innovation Forum | National Event](#)
Tue Jun 29th - Thu Jul 1st

[Farm Safety: Safeguarding your People and Business \(ONLINE\)](#)
Tue Jun 29th 9:30am -

During the certificate ceremony, we learned how successful the training had been. We are happy that there is now a trained team of skilled people in Mt Barker available too; collect local seeds, tree planting, track clearing/ building, woody weed removal, direct seeding, control burning, plant propagation, fencing etc. After the recent storms in the area, the Ranger team were called upon by Plantagenet Shire to help clear local roads of fallen trees. Email team leader Blair Darvill <blair@human-nature.com.au> to make use of this great local trained team.

After the formal proceedings and some very tasty refreshments, those present were given a tour of the seed processing area set up at the back of the buildings. We heard that the group first visited Peter Luscombe at his property to learn the elements of processing seed and then set up their own area along similar lines. The processing is very time-consuming and labour intensive and the high-quality seed that the Rangers produced is sold for revegetation of local projects. The seed is very valuable and it would be wonderful if the Ranger group could continue this important work. I can personally recommend the group – they have collected seed on my property and have also planted 4,500 plants for a revegetation project on the land here. They are efficient, hard-working and cheerful.

The celebration also provided a networking opportunity for the OHCG group to catch up with other like-minded people – I observed many engrossing conversations taking place and had a few myself.

Jenni York

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Thu Jul 1st 12:00 pm - Sat
31st 12:00 pm

[WAFarmers Bootcamp to
Employment](#)

Tue Jul 13th - Thu 15th

[City of Albany FOGO launch](#)
Mon Jul 26th 3:00pm - 6:00pm

[School Tree Day](#)
Fri Jul 30th 7:00am - 5:00pm

[Growing Leaders Scholarship
2022 - Applications Close](#)
Sat Jul 31st 5:00 pm

[National Tree Day](#)
Sun Aug 1st 8:00am - 5:00pm

[Summer Sown
Forage Field Walk](#)
Tue Aug 3rd

[International Owl
Awareness Day](#)
Wed Aug 4th

[Opportunities in a
Changing Climate](#)
Fri Aug 6th

[Albany Social Bird Watching
Walk](#)
Tues 10 Aug

[National Science Week](#)
14th to 22nd Aug

[Keep Australia Beautiful Week](#)
16th to 22nd Aug



Renew Your Membership only \$11 for individuals [see here](#)

<https://www.ohcg.org.au/online-membership-application.html>



natural resource
management program



Department of Water and Environmental Regulation
Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development



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