

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

Welcome to our new eNews! Oyster Harbour Catchment Group's new seasonal newsletter will keep you up-to-date with what we are up to, as well as what is going on in your catchment. Having difficulty viewing content? Click 'view this email in your browser'

[View this email in your browser](#)

## Spring, Spring ,Spring.

### Caring for Endangered Communities and Coastal

#### Environments

[Oyster Harbour Catchment Group \(OHCG\)](#) have just finished one of our big, actually, **Giant**, 3-year projects sponsored by the Australian Government's [National Landcare Program \(NLP\)](#) through [South Coast Natural Resource Management Inc. \(SCNRM\)](#). The project aimed to drive on ground action such as revegetation, fencing and weed control to protect our biodiversity and endeavor to protect our ecosystem services for primary industries. We have strive to improve habitat for, and knowledge of threatened species and their value in the Oyster Harbour Catchment via restoration and threat management activities.

The project involved 47 land managers, 11 industries, three Government agencies, two Shires, nine sub-regional groups, one school, one university. so with a 300km<sup>2</sup> catchment and so many stakeholders the staff have been very busy. Luckily due to everyone's involvement and some good ol' elbow grease we were able to achieve above and beyond what we set out to do. Through fencing 39.32km (goal was 36km), revegetating 53.75ha (goal was 33ha) and weed control 31ha (goal was 15ha) we've been able to protect approximately 500ha's of remnant vegetation and waterways (just a little gloat! goal was 306ha). Protecting agriculture and our native bush is one of the goals that we strive to achieve, and we are very

## What's been happening at OHCG

### Projects, Projects, Projects!

It's a busy time at OHCG!

### What's been done?

**June-** Staff and volunteers attended a senior first aid qualification course.

**June-October-** Spotlighting surveys in Albany and

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

the local Swimming club on Pearce property.

**August-** Scouts spotlighting.

**August** - Strong and Proud Feral animal workshop.

**August** – Community Revegetation and Weed control workshop with P&C and Local Pony Club.

**September-** Great Southern Grammar revegetation day.

**September** – Porongorup bio blitz workshop and walk.

**September** – Emu point information night.

### What's coming up?

- Weed control and mapping will be continuing in the region over the next few months, please see weeds article for more details.
- More possum surveying including spotlighting, events and camera trapping will take place in Albany, Emu Point, Bayonet Head and Porongorup Ranges.
- soil testing and fencing will continue till the end of the year

**Oct 13<sup>th</sup>** - Guided Banksia Garden walk, Bloom festival event, 10-2pm Banksia Farm Mt Barker

RSVP [admin@ohcg.org.au](mailto:admin@ohcg.org.au)

**Nov 22<sup>nd</sup>** - Regional Estuaries Initiative, Oyster Harbour Community Update Emu Point Bowls Club - 5pm  
RSVP

[bruce.radys@ohcg.org.au](mailto:bruce.radys@ohcg.org.au)

**Oct 14<sup>th</sup>** - Wonderful Flora and horrifying weeds 1-3pm Kendenup town hall

RSVP- [admin@ohcg.org.au](mailto:admin@ohcg.org.au)



*Image Bruce Radys*

Wider community awareness and involvement was also a crucial component, with OHCG supporting and working closely with a range of smaller volunteer community groups. The volunteers within these groups have been particularly active and effective with assisting with the identification and control of weeds. Contractors were engaged to control weeds on road verges in the Ranges Link project area, with the effectiveness of this work has been enhanced many times over by the targeted weed control carried out by volunteers on private properties. The landowners will also be crucial to coordinate and carry out the many years of follow up control that will be necessary to see the weeds fully controlled.

We are lucky to have so much support and talent in these groups as our trusty volunteers (slaves) are put to task on other jobs such as planting out revegetation sites, often by hand but sometime with a machine, (if they are lucky), sorting appropriate seedlings/seeds and choosing the best site for revegetation. We are so thankful for this opportunity to help our community and protect our biodiversity and glad to have had so much involvement in the last 3 years. We hope we can continue this partnership into the future. Thank you to all of our groups and volunteers.

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

trial field walk 9:30am  
Willyung.  
RSVP  
[bruce.radys@ohcg.org.au](mailto:bruce.radys@ohcg.org.au)  
**Nov 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>** - Albany  
show, come and see our many  
displays and have a chat!  
Bring along the kids, there'll  
be loads of games. Find us in  
the Horticulture pavilion

*The Oyster Harbour  
Catchment Group  
Management Committee,  
staff, volunteers, members  
and wider community wish to  
farewell and extend their  
thanks to Ms Claire Bartron,  
who has left the group. Claire  
fulfilled the role of Landcare  
Officer for the group from  
2015 until mid 2018. During  
her time with the OHCG,  
Claire was successful in  
developing and attracting  
funding for projects in the  
Catchment, "Of particular  
note is Claire's development of  
environmental weed control  
(Bridal Creeper and weedy  
Wattles) and Western  
Ringtail Possums projects.  
Her enthusiasm and passion  
for the Western Ringtail  
Possum in particular has  
contributed greatly to the  
future regional focus on  
research and conservation  
work of this iconic species"*  
*says Heather Adams, OHCG  
Chair.*

*We all wish Claire the very  
best in her future endeavors.*

## Meet a Native

[Water rat-](#)

Image ABC

Yes, I am writing about a



Image Jenni Loveland

If there is something you are particularly passionate about and think OHCG should be involved in, please email our Communication Officer Sayah Drummond at [communications@ohcg.org.au](mailto:communications@ohcg.org.au) or message us on our Facebook page so we can continue helping one another and the environment.

## REI Update – What is the REI and all those other acronyms

REI stands for [Regional Estuaries Initiative](#). It is a Royalties for Regions (REI) funded project which is implementing actions to help protect six important estuaries in the South West: Leschenault, Peel, Vasse-Wonnerup, Hardy, Wilson Inlets and Oyster Harbour. It is implemented through a partnership agreement between Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER), Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) and local catchment groups (including Oyster Harbour Catchment Group - OHCG)



Image Jenni Loveland

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

Water Rat. Just give me a minute of your time and I may change your mind.

The Rakali, (Water Rat)- *Hydromys chrysogaster* is thought to have come from New Guinea and is one of the few amphibious mammals found in Australia. They live a semi-aquatic and semi nocturnal lifestyle and hunt for most their food in the water or on the water's edge eating a large variety of prey including fish, frogs, shellfish, crustaceans, aquatic insects, carrion, food scraps even mice, lizards and bats.

They occupy a variety of freshwater and brackish habitats, including swamps, lakes, rivers, creeks, estuaries, sheltered ocean beaches and irrigation channels.

Weighing between 400 grams to 1.3 kilograms (Males being larger) they are noticeably larger than the invasive rat and similar size to a medium-sized platypus. For those of you living in fear of rat species be assured these fellas will protect their territory and fight off the invasive pests. They will not inhabit your roof, shed or house, they much prefer a little burrow near the water.

Sometimes called Australia's otter, with cute features such as a flattish head and a short stubby nose. With a dense number of whiskers, they appear to always be overdue for a shave. With waterproof fast drying thick fur, partially webbed hind feet, dorsally located nostrils and small ears that can be flattened against the body it makes them perfect

- **Sustainable Agriculture** – Whole Farm Nutrient Mapping is a soil sampling and testing program aimed at helping farmers achieve production targets without excessive use of fertilizer. There are also activities such as fertilizer spreader calibration and field trials.
- **Moving Water Through the Landscape** – This includes protection and rehabilitation of waterways in the catchments through stock exclusion fencing and revegetation with native species. It also includes funding for things like stock crossings and alternative watering points, where these are required to fence off and protect waterways.

Other activities in the REI include estuary monitoring, increasing community awareness and involvement, innovative remedial actions and specific local works like the Yakamia Creek Biofilter project being implemented by the City of Albany.

If you would like to know more about the REI or would like to be involved in soil testing or waterway protection, please contact me, Bruce Radys, your REI project Officer for Oyster Harbour Catchment (0428994408 or [bruce.radys@ohcg.org.au](mailto:bruce.radys@ohcg.org.au))

## Celebrating Culture and History



*Image Sayah Drummond*

It was great to see our community getting together to celebrate our diversity for this year's [NAIDOC Week \(National Aboriginal and Islanders Day Observance Committee\)](#). On the 8<sup>th</sup> of July the community gathered at the base of Castle Rock in the Porongurup National Park for the opening speeches followed by a celebratory lunch. Damien Yarran, Founder and mentor of the recently formed Baldjamaar Foundation, chose to host the Foundation's first NAIDOC Week celebration in the Porongurup National Park as the area has cultural and historical significance, as well as having a strong supportive community with organisations, such as the Friends of the Porongurup's sponsoring the event.

Noongar elder, Jeanice Krakouer extended her *Welcome to Country* to those who gathered in the Park and went on to explain the importance of NAIDOC Week and the theme of 2018, *Because of Her We Can*. "As pillars of our society, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women have played, and continue to play, active and significant roles at the community, local, State and National levels." This theme encouraged all of us in the audience to reflect on how our own mothers have helped and supported us, making the event very moving. Especially due to Jeanice's heartfelt ending, "Their achievements, their voice, their unwavering passion give us strength, have empowered past generations and pave the way for

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

better than most Olympic swimmers.)

The colour varies considerably depending on location, the head and back may be any shade of brown through to black, the tummy can be from a golden/yellow shade to fawn/cream. The tail has a distinctive white tip.

So, if you come across a ginormous looking rat, take a second look and be proud to be amongst the few that get to see these amazing creatures in the wild.

## The Team

### **Jenni Loveland Project Officer: Community Capacity**

Jenni is our workshop coordinator working three days a week on our State NRM Community Capacity Project which aims to increase awareness of our natural environment, the challenges faced in its conservation and management, as well as increase involvement in managing threats (e.g. by undertaking weed control, and invasive fauna management).

**Contact:**

[admin@ohcg.org.au](mailto:admin@ohcg.org.au)

0409 572 240 | 9851 2703

### **Bruce Radys Project Officer: Regional Estuaries Initiative**

Bruce works four days a week on the Regional Estuaries Initiative, funded by Royalties for Regions. He aims to improve the quality of water entering the Oyster Harbour

Range, spoke about how the community group has been involved with indigenous women, saying *“We value our contact with many Noongar women. On visits to the Twin Creeks Reserve and the Park, Noongar women have shared their stories of growing up in the area, demonstrated the importance of local bush foods, and made a difference to our understanding of Aboriginal culture.”* Judy pointed out that as a tribute to renowned Noongar artist, the late [Bella Kelly](#), her paintings of the Porongurup Range and Stirling Ranges have been reproduced along the trail. In closing, Judy invited guests to walk along the [Walitj Meil trail](#) and read the signs that became so much more meaningful because of the assistance of Aboriginal women.

Plantagenet Shire President, Chris Pavlovich acknowledged that, *“Many Noongar people and their ancestors have lived in Mt Barker for thousands of years and call this place home”* Chris and his family have also lived in the area for several generations and they too call Mt Barker home. Chris's speech mainly focused on our combined future as he closed the formalities with *“Whilst it is good to remember our past, our ancestors and our culture, we live in the present and we look to the future which is so important to our children and grandchildren. We can make a difference if we work together to make this a better place.”*



*Image Sayah Drummond*

The lunch itself was a fantastic social affair with everyone mingling and talking, making new friends and catching up with old. This feeling of celebration was contagious with children dancing to the sounds of the Didgeridoo with the brilliant sunshine reflecting the atmosphere of the event. Having such a diverse range of people really demonstrated the strength of our community, and Oyster Harbour Catchment Group was glad to be one of many who attended.

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

riparian vegetation, and working with farmers to implement best practice management, including soil testing in high rainfall areas.

**Contact:**

[bruce.radys@ohcg.org.au](mailto:bruce.radys@ohcg.org.au)

0428 994 408

**Sayah Drummond  
Communications  
Officer**

Sayah has the role of Communication Officer, she is working to ensure landholders and the wider community are aware of, and can be involved in, the many exciting projects that the OHCG is up too. Sayah is also running three possum projects in Albany, Bayonet Head, emu Point and Porongorup Ranges.

**Contact:**

[communications@ohcg.org.au](mailto:communications@ohcg.org.au)

0467 955 317

little creatures and would love to hear from you!



*Image Bronte Van Helden*

The [Western Ringtail Possum \(\*Pseudocheirus occidentalis\*\)](#) (WRP) is endemic to the South-West of Australia but is currently found in an area of less than 500km<sup>2</sup>, which covers small and severely fragmented subpopulations that are continuing to decline. The population occurring along the South Coast, (around Albany and surrounds) may be a stronghold for the species, but information about this population is lacking. Through threats including a drying climate, urban development, inappropriate fire regimes and predation by [invasive species](#). Feral predator data demonstrates that Red Foxes and feral Cats are major threats. I know we all love our pets and feel that they can do no wrong, but unfortunately due to the nature of all animals, both pet dogs and cats are a danger to the WRP. Keeping dogs on a leash when in “possum” areas and keeping cats inside will reduce the chances of predation. Feral bees will also use available hollows for their hives to add to the WRP struggles.



*Image Jenni Loveland*

Our critically endangered fluffy friend traditionally lives high up in trees but can also be seen on the ground and on low fences on occasion. It is a nocturnal, herbivorous marsupial, has a rich dark brown coat with a snuggly cream belly, short round ears and a long slender prehensile (grasping) tail, generally with a white tip, unlike the more common Brushtail Possum which has pointy ears, lighter fur and a fluffy tail. The Brushtail is also much larger weighing up to 4.5 kg whereas the Ringtail is only around 0.8-1.3 kg. Unlike its larger cousin, the Western Ringtail Possum is generally shy and less aggressive and often makes its own little home, called a drey, using its tail to gather sticks and twigs it forms a cocoon type nest in which it spends its days. It can also use hollows in trees and thick ground cover such as sedge clumps to shelter in.

Over the last few years, OHCG, in partnership with the City of Albany, the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, University of WA and fauna consultants have been carrying out research to increase the knowledge of abundance and habitat preferences of this important population, through camera traps, spotlighting surveys and roadkill's being recorded around the greater Albany area.

We have found a strong population on the Mounts (Adelaide, Clarence and Melville) and groups of animals from Albany to Porongorup Ranges. We are now extending our search to find other hot spots in the City of Albany and Shire of Plantagenet. We have had minimal sightings in many area's particularly in the Porongorup Ranges since the big bush fire went through in 2009. Bayonet Head and Emu Point are further areas of interest.

### **To help save our local population we need your help!**

Spring spotlighting surveys will be conducted around Albany in October and in the Porongorup area late October/early November, volunteers are welcome. It is a fun evening searching for possums and it is so exciting to see a pair of eyes shining back at you when you are out spotting. All ages are welcome, and it is a great family outing, children are welcome if accompanied by an adult.

One of our biggest tasks is finding backyard possum sleuths to monitor possums by placing a motion camera in a fixed location in backyards. We are targeting people with adjoining bush areas. We are currently looking for backyards in the Bayonet Head, Emu Point and Porongorup areas. The hope is to see if we can spot the little critters using your yard as their highways. If you feel that you can help please get in touch. We have many ways that you can help. if you feel that you cannot commit to spotlighting or camera sleuthing, we would still love to hear from you with any information you have, be it a sighting, roadkill, a possum living in your back yard or an

or phone 9851 2703 Alternatively you can download the [Inaturalist app](#) and start recording your sighting. This app is very cool and easy to use and the data goes into a worldwide log. We also need help with sorting through the hours and hours of footage we have of backyard cameras. This is a fun exercise and quite addictive. Download the [Zooniverse app](#) have a look at many different animals setting off the cameras.

### Sponsor

Some farmers will always do better than others...



Visit us at Dowerin Site number **47** on the oval

Already an Agrimaster User? Did you know that you can upgrade to Agrimaster-Plus? Call today to upgrade

That's the Agrimaster advantage!


**agrimaster Plus** All the benefits of a Comprehensive Specialist Farm Management program Plus Integrated Payroll.

Agrimaster-Plus is a full-featured accounting product with Cashbook, Internet Banking, Full Budgets, Quick Budgets, Reporting, Tax Compliance and in addition a comprehensive, integrated payroll program called Wagemaster.

Is Agrimaster-Plus right for you?



Up to 5 full-time & 30 casual /seasonal employees



Produce paylips, superannuation payments + group certificates



Single Touch Payroll Compliant



Accurate Leave & Sick Day Calculations

 Sales 1800 431 160
 Support 1800 110 000
 [www.agrimaster.com.au](http://www.agrimaster.com.au)

### Those horrible weeds

Oyster Harbour Catchment Group have been implementing some [weed](#) work over the last few years and we have been hitting it extra hard these last few months due to the weather conditions being good and the prime time to knockout some of the little (and big) terrors! Our focus has been invasive Wattles, Bridal Creeper and Watsonia, as well as treating other environmental weeds as we find them along the way.

You may say “*what makes a weed a weed?*” I have beautiful flowers in my garden, are telling me some of them may be weeds? Well the easiest shortest description for a weed is.

*“A weed is a plant growing where it is not wanted. Any plant can become a weed.”*

Or another explanation-

A weed is any plant that requires some form of action to reduce its effect on the economy, the environment, human health or amenity. Weeds are also known as invasive plants. Weeds typically produce

these conditions. A weed can be an exotic species or a native species that colonizes and persists in an ecosystem in which it did not previously exist.

As we live in a biodiversity hot spot, one of only two in Australia and one of only 35 globally, with many of our plants occurring here and nowhere else in the world, we have a responsibility to keep it as beautiful as possible for future generations.

You may also be thinking “but some of these Wattles are native to Australia” and yes, they are but the ones that we are targeting are not local to the region. I received an excellent explanation to why we target these weeds from Rosie Smith, [Weedy Wattle Coordinator, Green Skills Inc, Albany](#);

*“Eastern States Wattles can grow more vigorously here when outside of their natural habitat (Sydney golden wattle being an excellent example of this), and the normal checks and balances which would keep them in place in their natural ecosystem are altered outside their natural range. Ecosystems are in a constant state of change, although problems arise when a species which is highly invasive is changing things too quickly for the local natives to keep up”* Rosie brought up the issue that we and many other organisations have been finding with the Eastern States Wattle varieties, they just grow more vigorously here than in their native areas. She continued to say.

*“Invasive Wattles cause problems by shading out local natives, covering the ground with litter and fixing nitrogen. The invasive species also ‘grabs’ resources more effectively than the local natives, and so you end up with a system which is ultimately much poorer in diversity and function and is more homogeneous. Many of our species need a very specific niche in order to survive, and if you get a biological bulldozer like these weeds, then the stakes are higher and the habitat modification/loss has potentially more serious consequences.”*

So, a little bit of information for you on what we have been targeting.....

### **Bridal Creeper (*Asparagus asparagoides*)**

Bridal creeper is a Weed of National Significance. It is regarded as one of the worst weeds in Australia because of its invasiveness, potential for spread, and economic and environmental impacts. It occurs as a weed along roadsides, farmland, waste places and disturbed scrubland. It is a climbing twisting vine that has creamy white flowers and red berries that entwines everything it grows around. It dies off during the summer and re shoots in autumn. The berries are apparently tasty to birds and small mammals and in this way, they are easily spread. It is also a tricky one to kill off as its roots are like little tubers and will grow from a tiny piece. As its nature is climbing and entwining it is also difficult to spray and not kill off the plant it is entwining.

**Flowering:** August - September but is variable.

**Fruiting:** October - December

**Origin:** South Africa



Image Claire Bartron

### **Wattles (Acacias)**

We have many wattles that are an issue in the area but the main 4 we see in the area are as follows. Although all these wattles are native to Australia they have proven to be very invasive when planted in the wrong area.

#### **Flinders ranges Wattle (*Acacia iteaphylla*)**

Flinders Range Wattle is an Environmental Weed outside its native range. It looks very similar in appearance to the native Myrtle Wattle (*A myrtifolia*). It is a common weed in disturbed woodland or waste disposal areas. Spread is usually by intentional planting or dumping of garden refuse. It is a dense shrub 2-5 m high with smooth, green tinged bark, the branches are weeping with silvery grey-green leaves. The flowers are pale yellow to lemon and are globular in groups of six to 16 headed sprays, each head with 12-17 flowers.

**Flowering:** March-December

**Fruiting:** July- December

**Origin:** South Australia



Image keyserver.lucidcentral.org

#### **Golden Wattle (*Acacia pycnantha*)**

Golden Wattle (*Acacia pycnantha*) is Australia's floral emblem, however, it is not native to Western Australia. It is common weed of roadsides and has started to invade bushland. It is a sparse branched tree that grows 2-8 m had the smooth bark is dark brown or grey, the leaves are dark green curved with a single prominent longitudinal vein. The flowers are golden yellow and are globular in groups of 6-20 heads, each head with 40-80 flowers

**Flowering:** July -November

**Fruiting:** October - January

**Origin:** Victoria and South Eastern South Australia



*Image Jenni Loveland*

### **Sydney Golden Wattle (*Acacia longifolia*)**

Sydney Golden Wattle (*Acacia longifolia*) is an invasive shrub or small tree that was once used as a restoration plant. It is a Garden escapee. It differs from *A. saligna* (local native) by the leaves, *A. longifolia* has 2-4 prominent longitudinal veins whereas *Saligna* have one prominent vein running lengthwise down their centre. Tree or shrub to 1.5-10 m high x 1-25 m wide with dark grey, finely fissured bark and green foliage. Golden yellow, cylindrical rachis or dense spikes, many individual flowers on 2-5 mm stalks.

**Flowering:** June - November

**Fruiting:** September - February

**Origin:** Eastern Australia.

\* *Acacia longifolia* can cause stock death as it has Cyanides (toxicity) in the leaves

*Image Jenni Loveland*

### **Silver Wattle (*Acacia dealbata*)**

Silver Wattle is not yet classified in WA, but it is becoming all too common in areas such as the Jarrah and Karri forest, and in the Porongurup. It is considered to be a common Environmental Weed and it has been reported to invade native bushland. It is a garden escapee. The flowers are golden-yellow and grow in small globular clusters. It is a large bushy tree that is 1.5-10 m tall, but occasionally reaching up to 30 m in height. The young branches and immature fruit have a whitish-coloured powdery or waxy coating that gives them a frost/silvery appearance.

**Flowering** June - December

**Fruiting**- September - March

**Origin:** South East Australia.

Image [keyserver.lucidcentral.org](http://keyserver.lucidcentral.org).

### **Watsonias (*Watsonia spp*)**

Watsonia species are an environmental and Noxious Weed of Western Australia. In WA, most species are prohibited to bring into Australia. As Watsonia plants are often transported by water they are commonly found along water courses. It is an upright and long-lived herb, usually growing 1-1.8m tall, the plant grows each year from underground 'bulbs' (corms) and bulbils on the stem which are green/reddish in colour. The large straps like leaves are similar to sedge and are 56-110 cm long. The trumpet flowers come in a range of colours depending on species ranging from pink, orange, salmon, white and red.

**Flowers:** September-November

**Fruiting:** May - July but variable between areas and species.

**Origin:** Native to southern Africa

planted as a hedge and as a garden plant. A shrub to 3m high that is spiny and intricately branched. The bright to dark green leaves are oval and slightly fleshy and range in size from 7-25mm. The berries contain toxic alkaloids. Pruning fragments will take root and grow if dumped in a suitable area, even up to months later. Flowers are white or purplish-white with purple blotches in middle.

**Flowers:** Most times of the year with a flush in April - May/August and September-November

**Fruiting:** After flowering so all times of the year.

**Origin:** South Africa

## Happening's from partners, members and community

### [King River Restoration Group](#)

There has been an on-going and productive partnership in weed management on the King River between local volunteers, ably coordinated and led by Steve and Geraldine Janicke and City of Albany's staff member Peter Stewart and his Reserves team. The '*local living herbarium of weeds*' that have established over several decades in a land locked river reserve adjacent to Dymbsbury Lodge and the Caravan Parks has been the focus of much needed and on-going attention over the last five years. The most recent endeavor has been on removing the abundant and large Pampas Grass tussocks scattered along the river bank whilst at the same time keeping on top of fresh germinations for many woody weeds including Sydney Golden Wattle, Victorian Tea Tree and Gorse. Access to the reserve to do this work has been made possible by the cooperation of the local landholders.

*Image Justin Hardy*

Three community busy bees in Billaboya Reserve and adjacent river corridors on both sides of the King River were held during September this year with excellent results mainly mopping up emerging Sydney Golden Wattles and managing to get to a number that were flowering before they could set seed. At these events Steve and Geraldine have once again provided both invaluable coordination, equipment, refreshments and some interesting citizen science activities – plant and freshwater invertebrate identification. These events kindly supported by Peter Stewart as well as Green Skills inc. There is now an extensive area of river corridor free of adult (seed bearing) Sydney Golden Wattles and this has only been achieved through the systematic efforts.

UWA student Jamie Lee-Hunt (*hear more on Jamie-Lee and her research next newsletter*) Is doing a research project on riparian invertebrates and has chosen a site on the King River for the trial. Her research ends in October and the results will be made available through the Oyster Harbour Catchment Group.

The weed control team from Green Skills have been assisting with removal large Sydney Golden Wattle trees and thickets remaining at Lowry's gully (adjacent to 'Wattle Island'). Thanks to the cash and in-kind contributions from the King River Pony Club there has also been an annual sweep along a section of the Wilyung creek, through the grounds and over the general area too.

A small revegetation trial has been established on a section of the flood terrace. This trial aims to measure the impact of controlling kikuyu in small defined sections using an herbicide spray and replacing with local native plant species with the aim of out competing the kikuyu. On inspection, the seedlings have all survived

seeding technique devised and carried out by Jack Mercer, local revegetation specialist. At both sites locally native species were used in an aim of creating habitat for local fauna including the black cockatoos. A large Invasive Blue Gum was removed at this site as posed a high risk of competition with the revegetated species.

Unfortunately, the King River River Restoration Group will be losing two of their heroes and active members, [Geraldine and Steve Janicke](#). Although they may pop their head in from time to time, the Janicke's have moved to Frankland River. We wish them all the best and sincerely thank them for all the mountains of work they have done over the past five years. I know that the Frankland River community are very lucky to have them both living there, and that will be an asset to the area. I even heard a little birdy say that they have already started doing some research on the weeds in the area.

### [Twin Creeks Reserve](#) and Friends of Porongorup Range

Botanist, Robert Powell, who has a great passion for the trees recently visited the Twin Creeks Reserve from the UK and gave a lecture at Karribank Retreat about trees of the Porongorup, particularly endemic Yates. The food was brilliant, and Robert was a very likable man who so kindly gave up some of his holiday time to educate us.

We attended Fire Mitigation meeting at the Porongorup Hall and made some recommendations for the planned hazard reduction burns in Plantagenet communities.

A combined Friends of Porongorup, Friends of Twin Creeks, Porongorup Progress Association and Community Association roadside rubbish collection project took place in August and finished with a BBQ, a possum workshop and walk commencing at the Porongorup Shop and finishing striding through the bush at the Tree in a Rock site looking for possums, which unfortunately we did not see any of.

With Peter Luscombe's coordination, another Greening Australia/Twenty Million Trees planting has taken place at Twin Creeks as infill on parts of the airstrip and front paddock - 10,000; due to a miss-order on the supplier's part had an additional 6,000 to get into the ground in the Ranges Link corridor.

#### *Image Lucia Query*

There is an upcoming Busy at Twin Creeks to do some construction work at sheds & chemical shed site.

### [Ranges Link](#)

Two years ago, Ranges Link folk took on a revegetation project to plant some 36,000 trees on a few properties within the link during the late winter, early Spring. We, the planting mob, were well coordinated by Peter and Susie Luscombe as they doled out trailer loads of tree seedlings and organised locations, times and the team. It was a mammoth effort and as the season progressed we were fighting time to get the last seedlings in the ground. When the task was finished we vowed not to tackle such and effort again.

#### *Image Lucia Query*

Well, we took a 2-year anniversary trip around the Link to have a

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

which propagated seedlings for a 20 Million Trees infill arrived with twice the number of trees ordered! So, another 10,000 seedlings were in need of a home. Peter rallied the troops to claim their red bins, potkiputkis and plant again.

On September 1<sup>st</sup> we gathered on Peter Twigg's property and put in a trailer load (3000-ish) of various species locally sourced from the Ranges Link region, such as; *Acacia saligna*, *Eucalyptus occidentalis*, *Melaleuca viminea*, *Melaleuca densa*, *Melaleuca spathulata*, *Melaluca hamulosa*, *Melaluca violacea*, *Melaluca brevifolia*, *Melaluca pauciflora* and *Viminaria juncea*. These little seedlings were planted to infill where we had planted 2 years ago, and it was a lovely day with a good group and we retired to Chateau Caladenia for sustenance after our work.

More Ranges Link infill planting was completed on Andrew and Ci Adams on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of September. Andrew had already sprayed out the area (down on Knights Road) and came down with his tractor and deep ripper to open up some good planting lines. Ci also came down and helped us plant with their children the young Archer & Phoebe. Also attending and acting as watchman was Nugget the pooch. Peter Luscombe organised about 2000 seedlings of *Melaleuca spathulate*, *Acacia saligna* *Eucalyptus occidentalis* and *Melaluca viminea*. Tree planters this time were Peter Luscombe, Peter Twigg, Ron Schlottmann, Garry Mulder, Lucia Quearry with Susie Luscombe keeping us supplied with plants and keeping us on track.

It was a beautiful Spring day, a bit late for planting seedlings but they went into a low damp area, so we are confident they'll do OK.

Many thanks to both Susie & Ci for the food supplies to keep us going!



Copyright © 2017 Oyster Harbour Catchment Group Inc., All rights reserved.

**Our mailing address is:**

PO Box 118, Mount Barker, W.A., 6324

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#)

[Subscribe](#)

[Past Issues](#)

[Translate](#) ▼

---

This email was sent to <<Email Address>>

[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)  
Oyster Harbour Catchment Group · PO Box 118 · Mount Barker, Wa 6324 · Australia

