

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

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 and Koreng 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 Noongar community.

Have difficulty viewing this content? [View this email in your browser](#)



Issued: 21/04/2023



What's Been Happening in Oyster Harbour Catchment

Djeran E-Newsletter

Autumn

April-May

Season of adulthood

Cooler weather begins

Sidebar Content:

[Upcoming event](#)
[OHCG Membership](#)
[Available help](#)
[Backyard sighting](#)
[Staff team](#)
[Past Events](#)



Main Stories:

- [Showcases achievements to the Minister of Water](#)

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

[Annual Ringtail Possum Tally](#)

Sat Apr 8th 12:00pm - Sat May 6th 12:00pm

Grab your friends and family and help count Western ringtail possums in the area, by joining this year's Ringtail Tally.



[Earth Day](#)

Sat Apr 22nd 8:00pm



[Albany Weeding day](#)

Fri Apr 28th 9:00am - 11:30pm

Join the City of Albany for one of their regular community busy bees. Each fortnight, the volunteer group undertakes weed management of coastal and bushland sites across Albany. Equipment is provided

- [2023 Ringtail Tally: Call to participate](#)
- [Annual Feral Shoot](#)
- [Gate 2 plate Field day](#)
- [The Stars Descend: Community Performers Inspire](#)



Yes we can! Oyster Harbour has been restored to health by communities working together in the catchment and under water. See how the Oyster Harbour Catchment Group is continuing to protect and improve the Estuary and surrounding catchment.

[Showcasing Communities Achievement in Restoring Oyster Harbour and it's Catchment](#)

Changing fertiliser practices and revegetating waterways are among the ways farmers and the urban community are working together with the State Government to protect the South Coast's Oyster Harbour.

Oyster Harbour Catchment group meet with the Minister for Water Hon Simone McGurk MLA recently to showcase the work to protect the estuary and support our farmers.



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

[Sea Shepherd Marine Debris Albany community clean-up](#)

Sat May 6th 9:30am - 12:30pm
South Coast NRM and the Sea Shepherd Marine Debris Albany team are hosting a series of community clean-ups! Help us DEFEND CONSERVE and PROTECT the ocean from the silent killer: plastic pollution.

NEWLY FORMED GROUP OF
LOCALS GATHER TO PROTECT &
PRESERVE

Barmup/ Bluff
Rock Bushcare

Busy Bee -All Welcome!
1st Sunday Of The Month

[Barmup Kangas/Bluff Rock Bushcarers Busy Bee](#)

Sun May 7th 10:00am - 12:00pm
Busy Bee First Sunday of every month Meetup Picnic Tables, David Street 10am -12pm All ages are welcome, stay as long or little as you wish! Note BYO gear



[Porongurup Friends Social Sunday](#)

Sun May 7th 12:00pm - 2:00pm
SOCIAL SUNDAYS at the Silver Shed Twin Creeks Conservation Reserve 326 Knight Road, Porongurup Porongurup Friends Members, and Non-Members

Farmers, including sheep and beef farmer Chris Norton, are changing their fertiliser management practices to prevent excess nutrients from entering the estuary. By focusing on the streams, creeks and rivers that flow into Oyster Harbour, the overall health of the estuary can be protected and improved.

Chris shared how participating in the soil testing program offered through Healthy Estuaries WA has helped his farm reduce fertiliser use, with benefits for productivity and cost savings.

"We've been part of the program for nearly four years and now our fertiliser management program is working exceedingly well," said Chris.

"Now we've got to the point where we are not putting phosphate on some paddocks where we've got enough. This is a big jump for a farmer that's all his life just put on a bag of fertiliser which is the easiest way to do it.

"But nothing's fallen over, we're still getting very good production in our cattle and sheep, and the grass is growing well."



Farmer Chris Norton discussing his soil test results and fertiliser recommendations received through the Healthy Estuaries WA program.

Farmers like Chris have been working with Oyster Harbour Catchment Group, the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, and the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation through Healthy Estuaries WA.

The program supports farmers to make informed nutrient management decisions through regular events and accessible resources.

In the urban setting, South Coast Natural Resource Management is working with partners including the City of Albany and the Minderoo Foundation to rehabilitate Yakamia Creek.

In the past year, more than 56 local people have been involved in rehabilitating a site on the creek that flows into Oyster Harbour. They have

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

[Albany Weeding day](#)

Fri May 12th 9:00am - 11:30pm

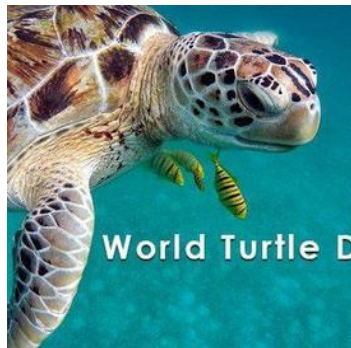
Join the City of Albany for one of their regular community busy bees. Each fortnight, the volunteer group undertakes weed management of coastal and bushland sites across Albany. Equipment is provided



[International Day for Biological Diversity](#)

Mon May 22nd 8:00pm

International Day for Biological Diversity



[World Turtle Day](#)

Tue May 23rd

[Renew Your Membership](#)

only \$11 for individuals

[see here](#)

<https://www.ohcg.org.au>

[/online-membership](#)

[-application.html](#)



Minister McGurk with the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation's Brett Ward and South Coast NRM's Natalie Reeves and Johanna Tomlinson.

During the visit Minister McGurk saw how the revegetation was establishing at the Yakamia Creek site and experienced first-hand how to use soil testing equipment.

Healthy Estuaries WA is a State Government program that works to improve the health of seven estuaries in south-west Western Australia. To learn more visit estuaries.dwer.wa.gov.au/.



[AccuSpread 2023](#)

We were blessed with good weather for this year's Oyster Harbour Accuspread field days, with local farmer's spreaders being tested over 2 Days 13th and 14th of March. The Healthy Estuaries program sponsored Accuspread trainer Russell Nichol to calibrate spreaders and demonstrate the effect of spread pattern accuracy and efficiency of fertilizer spreaders. On the first day at Howie's (Manypeaks) 3 different Marshall spreaders were tested before and after upgrades/modifications. This included fitting and testing the

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

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

On the second day, a range of Marshall spreaders old and new, as well as a Kubota 3PL spreader, were tested at the Wrights property (Mt Barker) – with the wind towers giving a good indication of wind direction! The Kubota 3PL spreader performed well spreading Urea and could be adjusted by changing the drop point of fertilizer. Another ‘widespread kit’ was fitted to a Marshall spreader with an improvement in spreading Urea at 30+ meters. It should be noted testing would be recommended when fitting these kits and adjustments could be required to achieve an acceptable spread pattern at the desired bout width.

Another interesting aspect was comparing different fertilizers and suppliers using grader boxes to assess the particle size. Too much fine particles show as a lot of dust blowing and results in too much material being deposited directly behind the machine. If greater than 5% fine particles are shown in the grader box, then the bout width may need to be reduced to account for the fertilizer not being thrown as far.

Thanks to Russell Nichol for sharing his knowledge (and frustrations!), host farmers, farmers who brought spreaders, and DPIRD for helping empty and weigh the trays.

Bruce Radys
Senior Project Officer



Planning, REI's Healthy

Estuaries Initiative, uPtake

trials, National Landcare

Partnership, Investigation of local

historic NRM and/or

Plantagenet Shire

weed control projects as a

volunteer or landholder, please

[contact us](#)

We are currently calling for

expressions of interest for

Landholders Wanting Fencing and

Revegetation

and

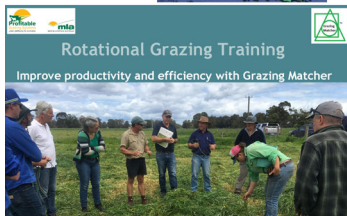
Participants for Grazer Matcher

The Grazing Matcher program supports groups of livestock producers to improve grazing, fodder and feed decisions.

Next program, commencing Autumn 2023, include groups from each of the areas shown in the map below (pending minimal numbers and co-funding confirmation). Other areas may be considered.

What you'll learn:

- Grazing management tailored to local conditions to maximise productivity, quality, resilience to grazing, root growth and nutrient uptake
- How to maximise pasture utilisation
- Efficient fodder production (quality, quantity and cost), storage and use
- Seasonal animal requirements
- Feed analysis and efficient feed allocation
- Animal monitoring to meet production targets
- Farm business performance indicators...
- ...and more!



How it works:

- Eight to ten businesses per group.
- Up to two people per business.
- Eight group meetings per year over 12 months, meeting at participant's farm.
- Four hour sessions facilitated by local consultants: Jeanine Accioly (ALS Consulting), Dan Parnell (Agsure Consulting) and Darlo Nandapi (SmartCow Consulting).
- Peer networking and professional advice to support your business both at and between meetings.

Cost per business: \$650 (up to \$3700 additional cost per business is covered by sponsorship and in-kind).



Feedback from past participants

- it showed me the extra production you can get from pastures that recover better from grazing – Paul Fry, Donnybrook
- it just pushed me, I've done more rotations than I've ever done – Matt Nield, Kororua
- it was a huge learning. The informal interaction as well as the formal group discussion. – Linda Brumby, Ferguson Valley
- it was good to put numbers to what we were feeding and refine it – Richard Walker, Wipia
- fine tuning hay and silage is probably where we made the most gain – Andrew McNab, Scott River
- impressive speakers. Very lucky to have that access. It's stimulating to see other farms – Ken MacLay, Vase
- I didn't know how to condition score before. Now we use it to shade mobs and feed accordingly – Brooke Allen, Boka

For more information, contact:

Jeisane Accioly on Jeisane.alis@gmail.com or on 0403 327 216



Quite often as blokes we have been told to get in touch with our feminine side. Over time this narrative has been part of the language barrier that has put bloke's positive approaches to wellbeing issues and help seeking in reverse.

There are three parts to our health: physical, mental and social/spiritual wellbeing. The latter is where we find: our identity, our individuality, our own sense of self, our sense of belonging, our passions and interests and our emotional *context* (not a feminine side!)

We are the same species but putting it simply men and women have evolved differently. Our DNA is 99.6% similar but it is that 0.4% difference that we need to talk about and address, because it helps explain why blokes have a warrior attitude to life and in turn helps explain why we seek help differently.

There are three main areas of difference that we talk about in the work we do:

1. Communication

- On average blokes will talk one third less than ladies per day (7,000 words to 21,000 words) this starts from a young age from boys through to men. Anyone with a wife, mother, mother-in-law, daughter, or partner will know this. Ladies, talking is a good thing as it helps address/highlight a whole lot of issues.
- It is perfectly normal for blokes to talk in dot points or even just grunt!

2. Risk-taking

- Blokes are hard wired to take risks from an early age. Some of this is linked to our brain development. The brain development stage for a lady is roughly between the ages of 18 to 20 years, whereas for a bloke it is between the ages of 25 to 28 years (some may say 45 to 50 years!)
- As we get older, we get wiser, but we are still hard wired to take risks.

3. Winning (an important part of the warrior culture)

- The majority (90%) of Aussie men think winning is important (a trait that can be traced back to our true warrior days, hunting for survival);
- An alarming statistic is that 50% of blokes think winning is all that matters. So quite often blokes don't take a backward step

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)[RSS](#)[being involved with](#)

We also heavily support two other groups that you can be involved in: the Albany and Surrounds Feral Cat Working group and the Southern Beef growers group. Please check our website for more information or contact us directly.



Over the years we have coordinated a number of feral shoots with bounties in the **Woogenellup** and **Porongurup** districts with great success – thank you to everyone that has been involved. We have recently received some unexpected funding so we have rolled it out again for an extended time - July to October 2022. We have also extended the area to include **Kendenup, South Porongurup, Manypeaks, and South Stirling** so please let anyone else that would be interested know. Please get back to me if you have any questions, and register as a participant. Thank you, Heather.

Phone: 0428 541 051

Email: heatheradams.ohcg@bigpond.com



You are invited to participate in an online study to identify what motivates volunteers to participate in environmental stewardship programs, and what factors support the valuable contribution of people like you. The study is completely anonymous and takes approximately 10-12 minutes to complete. Everyone that completes the survey will be

The importance blokes place on winning, explains why a loss event and/or a sense of loss becomes problematic and can be hard to deal with. Combine this with the lack of understanding of our emotions and we may be a ticking time bomb.

As blokes we need to be more aware of our emotions and that it is alright to show them. We will all experience emotional issues throughout our lives. During these times we should openly express our emotions maybe through a hug or a cry and/or use language that is foreign to us i.e. I am sad, and/or I am struggling here.

Talk to a Mate@!! It is beneficial, and you will realise that it's not just you that may be struggling, there's a lot of other blokes out there feeling the same way.

The Regional Men's Health Initiative

P: (08) 9690 2277

E: menshealth@4blokes.com.au

Twitter: @RMHI_4blokes

Podcast: Working with Warriors

Website: regionalmenshealth.com.au



[Call for community to join the Annual Ringtail Tally](#)

If you love native wildlife, it's time to grab your torches and spotlights to help count Western Ringtail possums for our annual Ringtail Tally.

The surveys can be carried out in your garden, on your property or in a nearby bushland reserve – and with Western Ringtail possums

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

University of Queensland with support from the NSW Environmental Trust. The complete the survey or to find out more information click [here](#).



Determining the impacts of grazing oestrogenic clovers on cattle fertility survey

We have been approached by a UWA/Bovitech Veterinary Services/DPIRD research team who is conducting a survey as part of a research project entitled **"Determining the impacts of grazing oestrogenic clovers on cattle fertility"**. The research is conducted on behalf of and funded by the Cattle Industry Funding Scheme (CIFS). The project is supervised by Assoc/Prof Dominique Blache, School of Agriculture and Environment, The University of Western Australia, coordinated by Dr Jessica Shilling, Bovitech, and Dr Kevin Foster, Department of Primary Industry Research and Development (DPIRD).

We are seeking information from producers involved in cattle production (dairy or meat, combined with other livestock or not). The questionnaire is available online and will take about 20-30 min to complete. You will find a participant information form and a participant consent form attached to this email.

If you wish to complete the survey, the link to the survey website is: https://uwa.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9RK2IQXmtsfiSy

If you would like any more information on this research, please contact the research team
Dr Jessica Shilling on 04 1310 7113 or at bovitech@outlook.com
Dr Kevin Foster on 04 2777 8003 or at kevin.foster@dpird.wa.gov.au
Assoc/Prof Dominique Blache on 6488 6370 or at dominique.blache@uwa.edu.au

Registrations are now open at www.ohcg.org.au/annual-western-ringtail-possum-tally.html for the tally which runs from April 8-May 7. We are asking participants to count ringtails on at least one occasion over 4 weeks to help build our understanding of the local population.

The tally aims to improve our knowledge and awareness of Western Ringtails living in urban areas. Citizen scientists are encouraged to record sightings of possums at the same location during the month of the tally, with the results shared with the wider community and recorded on the WA Threatened Species Database.

It's estimated that the remaining population size in the wild is less than 8,000 mature individuals, with a decreasing trend. Recent research predicts there is a very high chance Western Ringtails could be extinct within 20 years if action to protect populations and their habitat isn't enacted immediately.

Lyndsey Cox, the Research and Citizen Science Officer at Nature Conservation, said: "The Ringtail Tally is a brilliant way to get involved with science on your doorstep. It's really easy to take part and every record really does count by adding to our understanding of where the critically endangered Western Ringtail possum or 'Nguraren' is found across the South-West."

Data from the tally is used as a reference for population trends, future planning decisions and conservation projects, and the tally becomes more valuable each year it's repeated. So please grab your friends and family and help count Western ringtail possums.

We had a great beginner workshop for the Ringtail Tally 2023 on Thursday the 6th April. Training up some spotter and launching the tally spotting 5 individual western ringtail possums in the bush neighbouring the Emupoint Bowling club. You can see the live count from the app users here: [LIVE COUNT](#)

Join in anytime in the next 4 weeks and contribute.

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

deceased Western Ringtail Possums (Pseudocheirus occidentalis) encountered to help us understand the impacts of climate change on this Critically Endangered species.

We are seeking **~90 samples** from **all Shires** across the southwest of WA, excepting the towns of Bunbury, Busselton, and Albany, to fill in gaps in existing genetic data. Priority areas across the southwest are shown by circles with stars on the map below. We are asking anyone who encounters a deceased Western Ringtail Possum in these areas to please follow the instructions below. Thank you!

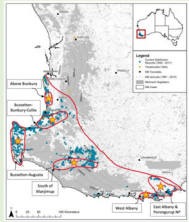






Photo: Sean Buckler



If you encounter a deceased Western Ringtail Possum, please:

1. Record the location of the specimen - ideally GPS coordinates or a detailed description and photograph of the location.
2. Collect the possum or a sample (scan the QR code for recommended guidelines on size and where to sample from) and freeze it (at least -20°C).
3. Contact **GRACE MARSH** at 22711952@student.uwa.edu.au, or call/leave a message at **0413 068 928** so I can arrange sample collection. Also please contact me if you require further details or would like to know more about the project!



Can you help us collect 90 Western Ringtail Possum tissue samples to understand climate change risk? As part of a Masters's project at the University of Western Australia, we are seeking tissue samples from deceased **Western Ringtail Possums** (*Pseudocheirus occidentalis*) to help us understand the impacts of **climate change** on this Critically Endangered species.

We are seeking **~90 samples** from **all Shires** across the **southwest of WA**, except the towns of Bunbury, Busselton, and Albany, to fill in gaps in existing genetic data. Priority areas across the southwest are shown by circles with stars on the map below.

We are asking anyone who encounters a deceased Western Ringtail Possum in these areas to please follow the instructions below. Thank you! Record the location of the specimen - ideally GPS coordinates or a detailed description and photograph of the location. Collect the possum or a sample (scan the QR code for recommended guidelines on size and where to sample from) and freeze it (at least -20°C). Contact **GRACE MARSH** at 22711952@student.uwa.edu.au, or call/leave a message at **0413 068 928** so I can arrange sample collection. Also please contact me if you require further details or would like to know more about the project!



Thank you for your support of this important research.

[Other Help Available](#)

[Greening Australia Revegetation project EOJ](#)
[OHCG Fencing subsidy](#)



Beginner Training workshop for the 2023 Ringtail Tally run through support of South Coast NRM's Enviro-Experience program.



[Redcard Feral Shoot 2023](#)

The Oyster Harbour Catchment Group Redcard feral shoot was extremely successful this year with some huge numbers pulled in. Unfortunately, as it seems to be a tradition, the rain came in, but the shooters pushed through and managed to get 174 foxes, 165 rabbits, and 27 feral cats.

The winning teams were Verminators, with 30 foxes, 8 feral cats, and 7 rabbits, Mad Dogs came in second, 7 foxes, and 66 rabbits, third was the Denmark Slayers with 25 foxes, and 2 feral cats, Team Chasing Tail were close third with 26 foxes and 26 rabbits.

People can have mixed feelings when they hear of feral cats being culled but I assure you these cats are not your general household cats and could never be socialized. In Australia, feral cats have played a huge role in the extinction of at least 27 mammal species and still endanger at least 147 native animals. Each feral cat kills around 748 reptiles, birds, and mammals a year, with cat populations in Australia estimated to be between 1.4 and 5.6

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

into summer <https://www.water.wa.gov.au/planning-for-the-future/rural-water-support/farm-water-supply-planning-scheme>

Gallagher Landcare Electric Fencing Grants

Applications are open for Gallagher Landcare Electric Fencing Grants. A total pool of \$176,000 (ex-GST) is available for up to 22 groups or individuals for use on conservation and biodiversity protection projects aligned with the priority areas. Each grant is valued at \$8000. Applications close on 15 June. [Apply now.](#)

Nuffield Drought Resilience Scholarships Open

Applications are now open for Nuffield Australia's 2024 Scholarship program. It is the first time that scholarships aimed at drought resilience study topics have been included. Each scholarship is valued at \$35,000 and farmers and others working in food and fiber production aged between 28 and 45 can apply now. Applications close on 9 June 2023. Further information is [here](#).

Feasibility grants available

Grants are available for businesses considering the feasibility of capital investment or expansion projects to grow, relocate or diversify food and beverage manufacturing or other forms of value-add processing in WA. Applications close on 30 June. Read more about the DPIRD Agribusiness Food and Trade grants [here](#)

Mental Health Assistance, R U OK? regional mental health (08) 6314 1436.

<https://www.ruok.org.au/findhelp>

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

[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](#)

which cause catastrophic damage to those affected.

Although pets and stray cats will never be targeted in this way they do play a huge part in the destruction of Wildlife if allowed to roam. Roaming pet cats kill 390 million native animals per year in Australia, including reptiles, birds, and mammals. That's an average of 186 animals, most native's, per roaming cat each year. We, therefore, encourage you to sign this parliamentary petition to amend the Cat Act 2011 to confine cats to private premises rather than wait for the scheduled review of the Cat Act 2011 in 2024. Our native animals can't wait.

[https://parliament.wa.gov.au/Parliament/LCePetitions.nsf/\(\\$All\)/5C8E58C676A289ED482589800031486F?opendocument](https://parliament.wa.gov.au/Parliament/LCePetitions.nsf/($All)/5C8E58C676A289ED482589800031486F?opendocument)

Foxes are less choosy with what they eat and will often go for fruits, carrion, and insects if nothing much else is available. They still have a huge impact on wildlife eating an estimated 300 million native animals every year. Foxes have an even bigger impact on our agriculture and take a \$28 million bite out of Aussie agricultural sector. They do this by spreading disease, and predating on livestock, with chickens being a favourite, but also like young pigs, goats, sheep, and others, and they can injure larger animals like cows when they are vulnerable.

Rabbits also cause damage to infrastructure by digging in and around fences, dams, buildings, and other structures. Rabbits cost Australian agriculture \$206m a year which has reduced since the release of the Calicivirus, however, some rabbits are immune to the virus, so we need to continue using multiple types of control to keep the numbers down.

We could not run these annual control events without our sponsors. Due to so much outside support this year, we were able to give all 14 teams a prize. Thank you, thank you, for your sponsorship; Nutrien Ag Solutions, Elders Albany and Mt Barker, State Natural Resource Management, South Coast NRM, Albany and Surrounds Feral Cat Working Group, Mt Barker Co-operative, Ray's Firearms and Archery, Regional Men's Health, Mt Barker vets, GSR Rural services. Redcard - State coordinators, Bendigo Bank, Plantagenet Archery, Sporting Shooters Association of WA Mt Barker Newsagency, TrailBlazers, volunteers, Heather Adams and Jim Rhind, and the Participants.

Remember farmers are continually working to reduce the feral animal numbers in and around the region so please thank a farmer

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

The Rakali, (Water Rat)- *Hydromys chrysogaster* is thought to have originally 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 of 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 opting for areas with thick cover.

Weighing between 400 grams to 1.3 kilograms (Males being larger) they are noticeably larger than the invasive black and brown rat and similar in size to a medium-sized platypus. For those of you living in fear of other rodent species be assured these fellas will protect their territory and fight off these 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, used for hunting 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 for their aquatic lifestyle. (They can probably swim better than most Olympic swimmers.)

The colour varies considerably depending on location and age, the head and back may be any shade of brown through to black, and the underside can be from a golden/yellow shade to fawn/cream. The tail always has a distinctive white tip but don't mistake it for the ring-tail possum that will occasionally eat some of your garden plants and scurry up a tree.

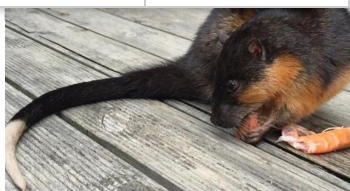
So, if you are out and about near a water body and come across a ginormous-looking rat, take a second look and be proud to be amongst the few that get to see these amazing



[Gate2Plate Challenge: Up to the Challenge](#)

Sandy's new shed was finished just in time for Willyung Farms to host the 2023 Harvey Beef Gate2Plate Challenge Field days! Thursday 23 March was the Schools Challenge with six teams from Agricultural schools in the region being exposed to a range of agricultural topics from animal welfare to feeding requirements. Teams then select students to answer questions on the topics presented. Well done Denmark Ag team – winning the challenge. Students were then treated to the highlight of the day 'Muster dogs' trainer Neil giving a very entertaining demonstration of dog mustering.

The new shed and surrounds were packed with machinery and trade displays for the main field day on Friday, with approx. 150 attending. Alister Raynor gave a seminar via Zoom, with the opportunity to view the competition cattle and eat yummy steak sandwiches for lunch. OHCG had a display stand on both days,

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

Explore your own backyard or patch of bushland and upload photos of what you see to [iNaturalist](#).

Oyster Harbour Catchment is located in the Southwest Australia biodiversity hotspot, one of only 36 biodiversity hotspots in the world. Many of our animals, plants, and fungi can be found nowhere else in the world. By contributing to this project you are helping to map this diversity which will in turn help with efforts to conserve remaining areas of natural and restored habitat. Explore your own backyard or patch of bushland and upload photos of what you see to [iNaturalist](#).

or help with

Zooniverse project is here <https://www.zooniverse.org/projects/abbsta/south-coast-threatened-fauna-recovery-project>

[The Team](#)



[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

The Gate2Plate committee also thanked OHCG and Friends of Porongurup for the loan of Audio visual equipment.

The final results of the cattle competition (quite a few teams from the Oyster Harbour catchment) will be presented at the awards night in June.



['THE STARS DESCEND' on PORONGURUP](#) [COMMUNITY PERFORMERS INSPIRE](#)

In early 2021, producer and project creator Annette Carmichael formed a partnership with Gondwana Link to raise awareness of ecological changes, how they affect habitat, and the importance of environmental restoration within local communities. A series of contemporary dance performances were planned within Gondwana Link to illuminate the Link's ambitious goal to connect and conserve the bush through 1000km of continuous native habitat.

Dance performances were held over 16 days at Margaret River, Northcliffe, Porongurup, Ravensthorpe, and Kalgoorlie in locations within the Link. In each region, nurtured by a local creative director and local volunteers, produced a chapter of the Stars Descend story inspired and interpreted by the natural landscape. The big Porongurup event was held on the 24th of March 2023. Celebrating how Friends of the Porongurup's have been tackling climate

Subscribe	Past Issues	Translate ▼	RSS
<p>project, helping enable strategic property planning, running Southern Beef and informing landholders on best-practice</p> <p>Contact sheena.smith@ohcg.org.au 0427 214 707</p> <p>Sayah Drummond Communications Officer</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Contact: communications@ohcg.org.au 0408 423 306 9851 2703</p> <p>Jenni Loveland Albany and Surrounds Feral Cat Working Group Project Officer</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Contact: jenni.loveland@ohcg.org.au 0409 572 240 9851 2703</p> <p>What Happened Last Season?</p> <p>2023 Harvey Beef Gate 2 Plate Challenge Open Day Sat Jan 21st 11:30am - 2:00pm</p> <p>WA's Clean Offshore Energy Future</p> <p>Tue Jan 24th 5:15pm - 7:00pm</p> <p>Offshore Wind 4 Kids</p> <p>Thu Jan 26th 2:00pm - 5:00pm</p> <p>World Wetlands Day</p> <p>Thu Feb 2nd</p>			
<p>spectacular outdoor performance space/setting, rich biodiversity, and ongoing restoration action. Part of the 1000km wildlife corridor vision of Gondwana Link and the Ranges link partnership between Oyster Harbour Catchment Group and Porongurup Friends.</p> <p>A large group of locals from Porongurup and Mt Barker joined dancers from Albany and Denmark training together at the Porongurup Hall and Twin Creeks Conservation Reserve to carry out Porongurup's performance. Prior to this project, many of the locals had little experience in contemporary dance but threw themselves into the experience with good humor and determination.</p> <p>Through the granite and quartz seams of the ancient Porongurup hills, the stars descended on the Porongurup Friends' owned Twin Creeks Conservation Reserve. The memorable backdrop captured the mood for the 300 people present. The changing low moving clouds and the threat of rain added dramatic accompaniment to the music.</p> <p>"Inspirational! A wonderful story in movement and music! were some of the comments I heard after the performance as we walked back to the refreshment stalls set up at Twin Creeks from the bush site where the performance was held". Judy O'Neill</p> <p>Gondwana Link CEO Keith Bradby said, "We are delighted to be part of this exciting partnership, with Annette Carmichael Projects. This fusion of creativity and conservation will be invaluable in encouraging more Australians to appreciate the beauty and global importance of our regional environments, the talent of local communities and the many ways we can both enjoy and restore important Australian landscapes and habitats."</p> <p>Created by choreographer Sonya Stephen inspired by the beautiful location and community alongside music by Andy O'Neil working in collaboration with Annette Carmichael and other artists connected across the Link.</p> <p><i>The Stars Descend is produced by Annette Carmichael Projects and presented in partnership with Gondwana Link. It has received significant support from the Minderoo Foundation with additional contributions from STRUT Dance, Circuitwest, Australian Government's Regional Arts Fund, Regional Arts WA, Regional Arts Australia, Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries, Creative Partnerships Australia through the Australian Cultural Fund, Rowley Foundation and Arts Impact WA.</i></p>			

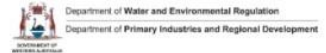
Subscribe	Past Issues	Translate ▼	RSS
12:00pm - 2:00pm			
Barmup Kangas/Bluff Rock			
Bushcarers Busy Bee			
Sun Feb 5th 10am -Noon			
Soil Secrets with Dr Christine Jones			
Fri Feb 10th 5:30pm - 8:00pm			
Manypeaks Producer Information			
Update			
Tue Feb 14th 7:30am - 8:30am			
2023 Operation Rainbow Roost			
Thu Feb 23rd 6:30pm - Wed Mar			
1st 7:30pm			
Soil Testing Workshop			
Mon 27th Feb			
Clean up Australia Day			
Sun Mar 5th			
Barmup Kangas/Bluff Rock			
Bushcarers Busy Bee			
Sun Mar 5th 10:00am - 12:00pm			
Porongurup Friends Social Sunday			
Sun Mar 5th 12:00pm - Sun Apr 2nd			
2:00pm			
The Stars Descend			
Fri Mar 17th 2:00pm - Sat Apr 1st			
2:00pm			
Global Recycling Day			
Sat Mar 18th 8:00pm			
International Day of Forests			
Tue Mar 21st 8:00pm			
World Water Day			
Wed Mar 22nd 8:00pm			
2023 Gate2Plate School Challenge			
Day			
Thu Mar 23rd 10:00am - 3:30pm			
2023 Gate 2 Plate Field Day			
Fri Mar 24th 9:00 am - 5:00 pm			
Earth Hour			
Sat Mar 25th			
Sea Shepherd Marine Debris Albany			
community clean-up			
Sat Apr 8th 9:30am - 12:30pm			

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

11:30pm

[Wildlife quiz night SCNRM](#)

Sat Apr 15th 5:00pm - 8:30pm

[It's the soil that counts! Soil](#)[Microscopy Workshops](#)Mon Apr 17th 9:00am - Tue 18th
4:00pm**Renew Your Membership** only \$11 for individuals [see here](#)<https://www.ohcg.org.au/online-membership-application.html>

Copyright © 2018 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](#)

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

