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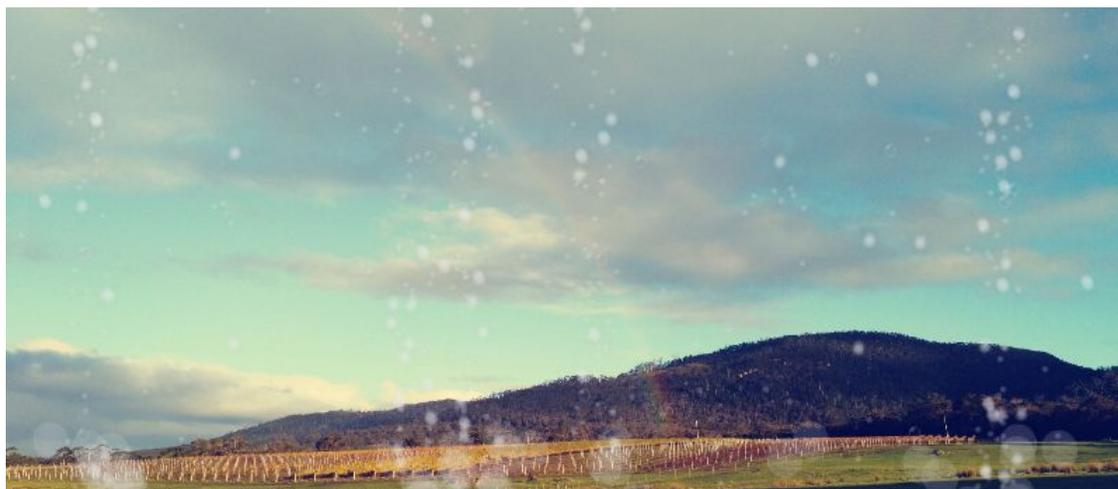
**Welcome to our eNews! Oyster Harbour Catchment Group's** noongar seasonal newsletter will keep you up-to-date on the big stories affecting the catchment and what we are up to.

*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: 10/7/2020



## Makuru E-Newsletter

Winter, June-July

**Season of fertility:** Coldest and wettest season of the year More frequent gales and storms

### What's been happening at OHCG?

**April**

Wild Pollinator Count

**May**

[Junior Landcare's "What's in your backyard?" photo competition](#)

[International Day for Biological Diversity](#)

**June**

REI interviews

Talk to

### Content:

- [Southern Aboriginal Corp Noongar Rangers](#)
- [King River \(Yerin-qurrup\) Restoration](#)
- [Healthy Estuaries WA program & Soil Testing](#)
- [Cats love Catios](#)
- [City of Albany, Getting Clever with Climate](#)

[Southern Aboriginal Corp Rangers](#)

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students

Grant submissions:  
Archiving, Weed control,  
Feral cats and King River  
Action Plan projects.

[Refashion Session June  
2020](#) · Albany

July

Fri, Jul 3 Gate2Plate  
Award Night Streamed

## Up-coming Events

Sat, 18th Jul 1–3pm King  
River Photo

Competition/ Open  
Display King River Hall  
Mon, 27th Jul

9:00am [Green Card  
training](#) South Coast  
Natural Resource  
Management Inc.

Thurs– Fri, 25–26th Jul  
King River restoration  
re-vegetation day

Sun, 26th Jul National  
Tree Planting Day

Fri, 14th Aug. [Soil  
Testing expression of  
interest](#) close

Mon 17 & 24th Aug [So  
you Want to Help  
Wildlife!](#) Albany King  
River Hall

Tue 18th, Aug 9:30–  
12:30 [Online: Aboriginal  
Cultural Awareness and  
Understanding  
Workshop](#) Hosted

by [Auspire – Australia  
Day Council WA](#)

Sun 27<sup>th</sup> Dec 2020,  
to Jan 3rd, 2021. [FRIENDS  
OF THE PORONGURUP  
SUMMER](#)

[EXHIBITION](#) email  
[judykelly@westnet.com.a  
u](mailto:judykelly@westnet.com.au) for more info



*SAC Aboriginal Ranger team completes watercourse fencing and gates on Johnson Farms, Palmdale.*

[Southern Aboriginal Corporation](#)'s new team of rangers is set to boost conservation in the region as part of the Federal Aboriginal Rangers Program. The Moorditj Noongar and Yorgas — Albany Aboriginal Rangers, have already been doing great work throughout the catchment. They have been helping the Oyster Harbour Catchment Group with removing environmental weed infestations (Sydney golden Wattle and Victorian Tea Tree) and constructing watercourse fences.

(“Moorditj is the Noongar word for ‘solid’)

### [King River \(Yerin-qurrup\) Restoration](#)



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## and Old Members



Oyster Harbour Catchment Group (OHCG) has been an incorporated community-based, volunteer organisation that has now been operating for 28 years.

Initially sparked into action by the community's desire to protect and rehabilitate the Oyster Harbour through the Kalgan River. Since then we've expanded our activities, focusing on preserving all the catchments natural assets and environment, as well as supporting land managers to adopt best practice and farming.

In the past five years alone OHCG has attracted over \$1.6 million in project funds, which has then been matched at least dollar for dollar by the community, project participants and OHCG partners. We truly appreciate you showing your support for our actions by becoming/ renewing your membership as it helps us draw more investment into our region.

We wish to reward our 2020 members new and old by entering them into a draw to win a brand-new Weber Baby Q TM Premium BBQ valued at

*fire/pedestrian (with Felicity help) access to King River (Yerin-qurrup)reserve to protect the vegetation from being degraded with materials provided by the [Regional Estuaries Estuaries](#).*

The [King River \(Yerin-qurrup\)](#) catchment is a complex branching network of shallow streams extending from north of Yellanup Road southward to Oyster Harbour (Miartch). Despite heavy clearing within the catchment, the water remains fresh, however there have been effects. Degrading water quality is at risk due to soil surface water erosion, poorly maintained drains, loss of soil surface cover, nutrient runoff and leaching and overall native vegetation. This accompanied by invasion of various weeds that threaten the natural biodiversity and ambiance. Development pressures have increased rapidly to the extent that it is no longer maintaining itself. The natural vegetation, even in the protected areas of reserves and fenced from stock is significantly stressed due evidenced by shoot and bud wilt, stem cankers, leaf and canopy loss. Fortunately, King River residents highly value this catchment with volunteers being involved in the King River Restoration Action Group: weeding, fencing and restoring/reveging the river.

To begin to better manage the catchment and attract resource management funding a more integrated approach is required to involve the broad cross section of land users, water users and residents. Since Feb 2020 the OHCG have assisted the local King River group in a consultative planning process for a funding request to the state government (made in June 2020) for a 3-year program to develop a long-term plan for the river and its catchment.

Recently there has been a volunteer project covering an approximate 1km stretch of the King River (Yerin-qurrup) which has been unfenced for several decades and inaccessible to the public, until recently was being grazed

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some farm bio-security signs as well as information packs that are available free for members on request.

## We are currently running 5 projects in the catchment.

If you wish to be a part of the; Holistic Property Planning, REI's Healthy Estuaries Initiative, Farm Fertiliser uPtake trials, National Landcare Partnership Project and/or the Albany and Surrounds Feral Cat Working group please check our website [ohcgc.org.au](http://ohcgc.org.au) or contact us to register your interest or check your eligibility

### Other Help Available

\$3000

grant available for farmers needing drought relief in Albany/Plantagenet Shires.

Primary producers are eligible for this \$3000 grant through St Vinnies. It is easy to apply and a quick turnaround to receive grant. Hopefully there will be some good rains to fill dams but in the meantime this may be useful. Here is the link :

[https://www.vinnies.org.au/page/Find\\_Help/drought\\_assistance/](https://www.vinnies.org.au/page/Find_Help/drought_assistance/)

### What's in Your Backyard

Tasmanian Blackwood (wattle), Kikuyu and Taylorina. As a result, there has been a significant amount of preparation work taken place (i.e. weed removal, ripping and spraying). All with a view to improve the habitat, aesthetics and other downstream environmental benefits such as water quality. This will include replanting of 4500 seedlings on Sunday 26 July (from midday), with over 25 different local native species, some of which were collected in January. In addition, the adjoining landowners intend planting a strip of revegetation of their own along the inside of his boundary fence. The OHCG has provided new fencing equipment and gates for a safe and secure road and fire access to the area that has been constructed by local farmers. As such, in a few years we envisage this to become an excellent example of a community restored and managed foreshore riparian corridor that features a thriving native habitat, an enjoyable place for local community to visit whilst also providing important emergency/summer time fire access.

### Healthy Estuaries WA program



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### Brush-tailed

*Phascogale (Phascogale tapoatafa tapoatafa)*, are found in south western Australia known as the Tuan. It's a shy, cryptic species that occurs in low densities and forages over a very large home range (female 20–70 ha, males 100 ha) which means only small populations can exist in quite large areas of habitat. They are primarily arboreal, and forage for their diet, which is predominantly large insects, spiders and centipedes. It has a uniform deep grey on the head, back and flanks, light grey to pale cream underneath with large naked ears and a conspicuous, black 'brushy' tail.

Hollows in dead or live trees provide preferred den sites, although nests constructed under flaking bark, or in tree stumps are sometimes used but provide a less secure substitute against predators in areas where hollows are scarce.

Mating occurs in late autumn – early winter and males die after the breeding season at an age of about one year old. Females give birth to about six young from mid June to early August.

Unfortunately

improve water quality and restore the estuaries in the Peel, South-West and Great Southern regions.. This partnership will support farmers to take actions to reduce nutrient input to Estuaries.

Managed by the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation, Healthy Estuaries WA will continue partnerships with more than 10 organisations across Western Australia, delivering strategic outcomes, supporting the economic growth of the regions and working to manage the effects of climate change on our waterways. This includes an ongoing partnership with the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development to reduce the nutrient runoff from farms for the Wilson Inlet and Oyster Harbour, while supporting farm productivity.

The Healthy Estuaries WA program will directly employ more than 70 people delivering projects, with the majority living and working in regional areas. Delivery of the program will also support local businesses in the provision of goods and services, including technical services such as soil testing and clay manufacture. As well as reducing nutrient inputs from priority catchments, Healthy Estuaries WA will use the latest science to monitor and effectively manage waterways, and continue to build collaboration between community, scientists, government and industry.

### [Whole Farm Nutrient Mapping – Soil Testing – EOIs now open](#)

Our successful Whole Farm Nutrient Mapping project has been continued for another year as part of the Regional Estuaries Initiative/Healthy Estuaries WA programs. This is a highly subsidised soil testing program and a great way to get the nutrient status of your whole farm mapped, with workshops, tissue testing and agronomic advice included. See the attached flyer for more info or call Bruce Radys 0428994408. To complete an EOI use this link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HealthyEstuariesEOI2020>

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nearly threatened. This is due to clearing and fragmentation of preferred habitats combined with changes to the forest structure through inappropriate fire management has impacted upon habitat values. A reduced abundance of hollows limits breeding opportunities and increases exposure to predation from foxes and cats.

If you see something plant and/or animal please upload a photo onto [inaturalist.org](http://inaturalist.org).

## The Team

[Bruce Radys](#)

Senior Project Officer:  
Regional Estuaries  
Initiative

Bruce works part-time, oversees and helps the other staff and works on the Regional Estuaries Initiative, 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](mailto:bruce.radys@ohcg.org.au)



*Credit to- [Catiospaces.com](http://Catiospaces.com), [fetchpetcare.com](http://fetchpetcare.com)*

Perhaps time to seriously consider keeping your furry companion safe. If your cat does not like being indoors, why not build a catio? An outdoor enclosure for your cat. Catos can offer them a protected space to enjoy fresh air while exercising, watching life go by, and lounging. It's a great way to provide daily enrichment for your cat and a safe outdoor experience. Cats have a special place in many Aussies homes. As an important member of the family, they deserve to be safe and protected from diseases, injury, cat fights and getting lost. Did you know that enclosed cats can live up to four times longer than those allowed to roam freely?

Preventing your cat from roaming will also make you very popular with your neighbours who may not be all that thrilled having your pet visiting their gardens. Not to mention the wildlife in your neighbourhood which will be kept safe from your cat's hunting instincts. Yes, all cats hunt – normally only a small percentage of their kills are brought back, leading us often to believe “our cat doesn't kill”. Recent research indicates that roaming domestic cats have a much greater role in wildlife predation than previously thought. Given the density of domestic cats in suburban areas their estimated rates of predation is higher than that of feral cats. Surely, we don't want to see our

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

Project Officer: Ferals

Jenni is very passionate about feral animal control and works part-time facilitating a Feral Cat Project and running the Albany and Surround 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](mailto:jenni.loveland@ohcg.org.au)

0409 572 240 | 9851 2703

[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 projects that the OHCG is up to. This includes the maintenance of our [website](#), [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](mailto:communications@ohcg.org.au)

0467 955 317 | 9851 2703

endangered. As responsible pet owners we can keep both our cats and wildlife safe. For more information on building outdoor cat enclosures we recommend downloading this brochure: [geocatch.asn.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Catio\\_design-guide-reduced.pdf](https://geocatch.asn.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Catio_design-guide-reduced.pdf)

You can also get in touch with us. We are the Albany and Surrounds Feral Cat Working Group (ASFCWG). Our group formed last year with the aim to preserve wildlife while at the same time encouraging cat owners to help reduce the impact their pets are having on the native fauna. We promote undertaking best practice feral cat control and are looking for solutions to address issues arising from the stray cat population, but first and foremost we encourage responsible cat ownership. Our group includes a variety of volunteers from catchment groups, representatives from wildlife organisations, local and state government departments, and cat owners. Our work is supported by funding from the Western Australian Government's State Natural Resource Management Program, supported by Royalties for Regions. You can reach us by e-mail: [Jenni.loveland@ohcg.org.au](mailto:Jenni.loveland@ohcg.org.au) or phone: 9851 2703. Alternatively check out Oyster Harbour Catchment Group webpage [ohcg.org.au/cats-feral-stray-and-domestic.html](https://ohcg.org.au/cats-feral-stray-and-domestic.html) look under "threats" or Nullaki Conservation Initiative [nullakiconservation.org/feral-cat-links/](https://nullakiconservation.org/feral-cat-links/) Written by Anne Bondin and Jenni Loveland

[City of Albany getting Clever about Climate](#)

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City of Albany has started a new partnership with [ClimateClever](#) enabling residents to track their carbon emission, reduce costs, reduce climate consumption and more. ClimateClever is an online platform allowing users to track their carbon footprint by recording their electricity, gas and water usage. Allowing Albany to be benchmarked with other regions across Australia and provides a personalised action plan that tracks emissions and annual costs to shows how each resident's household consumption impacts their carbon footprint.

The City of Albany have a free founding subscription to the ClimateClever platform for the first 50 residents who sign up at <https://www.climateclever.org/homes?partner=albanywa>. Subsidised memberships are available for remaining residents to get involved at \$15 annually. To get more information contact the City of Albany Environmental Sustainability Officer Mary Holt at 6820 3972 or [maryh@albany.wa.gov.au](mailto:maryh@albany.wa.gov.au)



natural resource  
management program



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



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