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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: 15/6/2021



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

Winter: June-July

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

Sidebar Content:

[Upcoming event](#)
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Main Stories:

- ["Genestream" sculpture at Twin Creeks](#)
- [Importance of Whole-Farm Planning](#)
- [Albany and Surround Feral Working Group Update](#)
- [Archive and Discovery](#)

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[Global Wind Day](#)

Tue Jun 15th

6:00am - 6:00pm

Global Wind Day is a worldwide event that occurs annually. It is a day for discovering wind, its power and the possibilities it holds to reshape our energy systems and decarbonise our economy



[World Day to Combat](#)

[Desertification and](#)

[Drought](#)

Thu Jun 17th

Desertification is the degradation of land in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas. It is caused primarily by human activities and climatic variations.



[Plastic Free July](#)

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

Plastic Free July is a movement that has inspired an estimated 326 million participants. Making a small change will collectively make a massive difference to our communities. You can choose to refuse single-use plastics in July and beyond! Best of all, being part of Plastic Free July will help you to find great alternatives that can become new habits



["Genestream" Sculpture at Twin Creeks Conservation Reserve](#)

Twin Creeks Conservation Reserve was the place to be on Saturday 29th of May as it was the opening of the first of its kind 3m tall "Genestream" sculpture. After a long process of inspiration, perspiration, collaboration, design and re-design, this large and marvellous artwork was unveiled. It combines and celebrates; our flora and fauna's unique deep time evolutionary journey, Noongar and wadjela artworks as well as some superb engineering/metal fabrication.

The Genestreams Sculptural Project depicts the evolutionary journey of a range of local plant and wildlife species and reminds us that we are merely a blip in the long process that has created South-western Australia and particularly the Porongurup area. Where the granite outcrops especially of the Heritage-listed Porongurup National Park provide damp refuges for Gondwanan relictual species, which are more closely related to groups in mountainous areas of eastern Australia, Tasmania, New Zealand and other Gondwanan continents than to the surrounding lowlands in the region. The Park is significant at a national scale for endemism and richness in spiders, in particular primitive trapdoor spiders (mygalomorphs). These have a Gondwanan distribution, for example, some genera have a restricted distribution in Australia, but are also found in southern Africa, and are thought to be a relict of Jurassic times when Africa was joined to Australia 140

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[OHCG Committee](#)

[Meeting:](#)

Come along and have morning tea with us

Thu Jul 1st 9:00am - 11:00am

Join us for a few hours a Thursday the 1st to meet and chat to some amazing local people working in Landcare and agriculture. You can just come and listen or you can use this as an opportunity to contribute/ help direct actions of the catchment group by volunteering to see if they wanted to join the committee.

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

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

[What Happened Last Season?](#)

[Western Ringtail Possum Annual Tally.](#)

Sat Apr 10th 5:00 pm -
Sun May 9th 5:00 pm

[OHCG Committee Meeting](#)

Thu Apr 22nd
9:00 am to 12:00 pm

[Porongurup Friend's Screening of Breathing Life into Boodja](#)

Porongurup Hall
Wed Apr 28, 6:00pm

[World Migratory Bird Day](#)

Sat May 8th

featured in the base.

The sculpture launch was followed by a scrumptious afternoon tea and a panel discussion led by; local farmer and plant specialist Peter Luscombe, artist Ben Beeton, botanist Prof. Stephen Hopper, and Menang Noongar Elder Aunty Carol Pettersen that was more of a discussion circle with many other experts and passionate community members present. We talked about everything from geology and ecology to social media and the future generations of conservationists and emerging elders.

The project was instigated by Gondwana Link as part of their *Heartland Journeys* digital, virtual and real trail across the Link here in WA. We warmly thank ALL the people involved in the sculpture's creation and installation, including [Gondwana Link](#), Ben Beeton, Aunty Carol Pettersen, Aunty Caroline Nguyen, Mark Hewson, Mali Moir, Jane Thompson, Jenny Wilson, Patrick Bocian from Bakers Junction Engineering, inmates from Pardalup Prison, Liz Jack, Lucia Quearry, Peter Luscombe and the other Friends of the Porongurup Range volunteers.

Gondwana Link aims to introduce the traveller along their Heartland Journeys trail to the unique and abundant endemic flora and fauna still to be found here in the southwest of Western Australia. They aim to engender a greater appreciation of the world-renowned biodiversity we possess here in our own backyard. We highly recommend visiting the sculpture and seeing it for yourself. Bring your family and friends and reflect on culture, ecology and changes over deep time.

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[Endangered Species Day](#)
Fri May 21st

[World Biodiversity Day](#)
Sat May 22nd

[OHCG Committee Meeting](#)
Thu May 27th
9 am to 12 am

South Coast NRM Forum
Thu May 27th 10 am to
3 pm

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

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

[GSDC Medal Dinner](#)
Fri Jun 11th

6:15pm - 10:00pm

[Gate 2 Plate Award](#)
[Dinner](#)

Fri Jun 11th

6:15pm - 10:00pm

[Renew Your Membership](#)

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

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



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

In return not only are you supporting a great local cause but you also get:
-> EXCLUSIVE FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES



[Importance of Whole-Farm Planning](#)

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RESOURCES
 -> NETWORKING AND
 INFORMATION SHARING
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We are currently running 6 [projects](#) in the catchment.

ohcg.org.au

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

We also heavily support two other groups that you can be involved in you can be involved: 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.

Other Help Available



https://www.vinnies.org.au/page/Find_Help/drought_assistance/

Primary producers in the City of Albany and Plantagenet Shires impacted by

reduced rainfall are eligible to receiving the is easy to apply for a quick \$3000 grant through St Vinnies.

This includes Farmers, Contractors, Farm Workers, Suppliers, Saleyard and Abattoir workers

Water Audit Rebate:

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

based on natural resources have on your land and economic factors in your life. To manage a farm well requires careful planning. In most instances, you should plan for years, if not decades in advance. You should plan both the physical development of the farm property, changes in climate/ natural resources, as well as the development of the farm business.

In any whole farm planning strategy, the farmer must first assess the site in terms of the present or potential use/suitability of their land/natural resources. The farm is then managed/subdivided, (usually by fences), based on productive or problem areas (e.g. erosion, salinity). Water and access routes are highlighted. Cropping or livestock rates are planned to be increased if feasible. The shelter is planned and planted out or built. Soils are monitored and altered to achieve the best production, cost-efficiently as possible.

Oyster Harbour Catchment Group tries to promote this type of farm management as it fits our vision to foster a prosperous, vibrant community for present and future generations within the Oyster Harbour Catchment through natural resource management.

Farm management and best practice are always adapting as we learn more about our agricultural systems, adopt new technology and manage changes in market chain demands. Oyster Harbour Catchment group partners with the farmer on numerous projects to support those who are trying to carrying this out.

For Example:

- [Healthy Estuaries WA Project](#)
- [Looking forward, looking back: planning and action for the Oyster Harbour: farm planning project](#)
- [Grazer Matcher](#)

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

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

- [Business.gov.au](https://www.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



Cephalotus follicularis – Albany Pitcher Plant. Photo: Sophie Xiang

**Albany Pitcher Plant
*Cephalotus follicularis***

This plant is an ecologically unique carnivorous plant that only grows in wetlands of very restricted areas of coastal south-western Australia.

Carnivorous plants have evolved to grow in nutrient-poor environments, usually in high light conditions in waterlogged soils, where they attract, trap and eat insects, protozoans, and other small organisms to supplement their recommended daily intake of nitrogen and phosphorus. Pitcher plants are specialised carnivorous plants with leaves modified into deep vase-like cavities, or pitchers, that contain a liquid in which trapped insects are dissolved by bacterial action and enzymes secreted by the plant itself.

This plant can usually be found in swamps associated with two Myrtaceous



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Cosmelia rubra.
Owing to habitat loss, changes in land use and fire regimes, it is not nearly as common now as it was previously.

Botanically, Cephalotus follicularis is of particular interest as it's the only species in the Cephalotaceae, a plant family which has its origins in the Late Cretaceous (~ 70 million years ago), an isolated, extant descendent of an ancient plant lineage.

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

[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**

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

[Sayah Drummond](#)



[Albany and Surrounding Group Feral Cat Working Group \(ASFCWG\) Update](#)

While the group may have been a bit quiet over the last few months, things have been slowly ticking along in the background.

As much as we are aware of the dangers of roaming cats and stricter laws are in place, there are still hundreds of cats and especially unsterilised cats in our region still being abandoned or becoming strays each year. It is clear that not enough education is available locally.

Seeing this very important niche that needed to be filled, Chair Lucia Queary and Coordinator Jenni Loveland have devoted many hours applying for a State NRM Grant to help the group move forward into next year and maintain momentum.

Overview of the three-year grant, "Education for best-practice cat management to decrease impacts on biodiversity", would run from January 2022- December 2024.

If successful, the grant will help to conserve our biodiversity, by increasing public awareness in Albany and surrounding areas focusing on cat issues.

The Albany and Surrounds Feral Cat Working Group (A&SFCWG) will collaborate with local stakeholders to:

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ensure landholders and the wider community are aware of and can be involved in, the many exciting OHCG projects.

This includes the maintenance of our [website](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [email](#) list.

While also trying to make sure our community/ membership interests are reflected in all upcoming works.

Contact:

communications@ohcg.org.au

0408 423 306 | 9851 2703

[Jenni Loveland](#)

**Volunteer ASFCWG
Project Officer**

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

0409 572 240 | 9851 2703

containment, through responsible cat ownership presentations to school and TAFE students, community groups, Shire staff and conservation organisations. This not only protects the local wildlife but also decreases roaming cats' exposure to the dangers from the outside world.

- Static displays will be erected in libraries and shopping centres, Shire reception and museums with stalls at local market days and shows of posters and information.
- To gain a better understanding of why barn/farm/shed cats are used, how we can help and how we could encourage a reduction in numbers and responsible ownership.
- Review original goals for the group and plan for the future of the group.

With this grant, we are aiming for a better-informed community working towards achieving sustainable conservation and biodiversity values focussing on the values of our Mission statement.

“A collaboration of organisations and individuals focusing on the conservation of native wildlife through a coordinated approach to undertaking best-practice feral cat control, addressing the stray cat population issues and promoting responsible pet ownership.”

For more information or to keep up to date. Please follow the Facebook page www.facebook.com/notoferalcats or email jenni.loveland@ohcg.org.au or webpage www.ohcg.org.au/cats-feral-stray-and-domestic.html

Jenni

Albany and Surrounds Feral Cat Working Group



[Together Contributing to a more Prosperous and Sustainable Catchment](#)

My beautiful archive and discovery team have been amazing and a lot of fun to work with. We have gone through 25 governance and project files so far learning something new every day.

For example, did you know there were original 12 land catchment volunteer committees looking after different sub-catchments within the Oyster Harbour Catchment? In a way, it's a bit sad that we now only have one but hopefully, all those people would be proud of the work Oyster Harbour Catchment group continues to do. We always have room for more committee members if you want to make sure your sub-catchment is getting looked after.

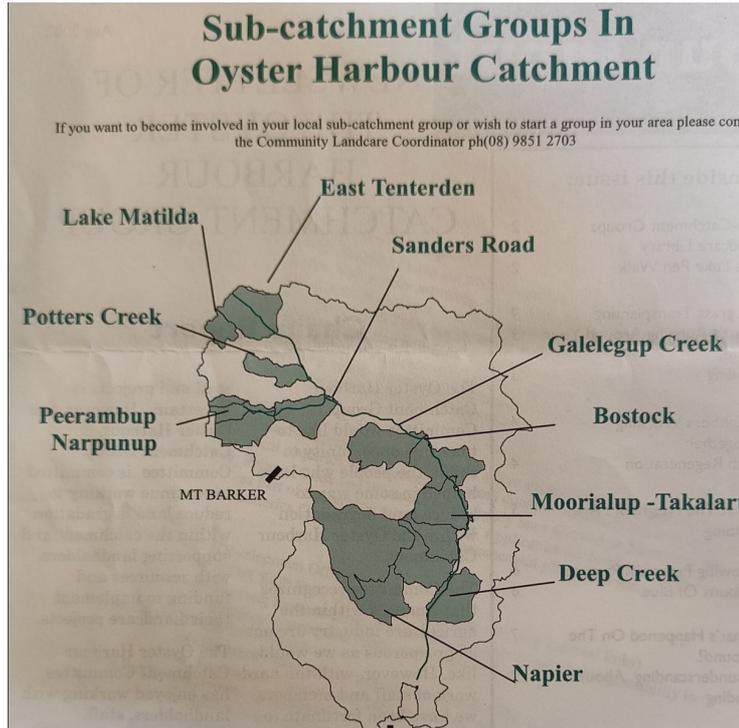
On the brighter side, there are many familiar names within the documents that we still see as passionate as ever within the Landcare space. Heather Adams: OHCG current chair, Bruce Radys: OHCG current senior project officer and Johanna Tomlinson; Current SCNRM Operations Officer and OHCG member as young project officers are always fun names to find. I also recently found my grand dad: Tony Kelly name in some 1998-2000 pasture trails and remnant vegetation fencing on his/ now uncle's farm in Kendenup.

If you have any free time, are interested in history or just want to hang out with some great people please contact me Sayah at

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natural resource management program



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



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