



Welcome to a bumper edition of the HHab Newsletter, due to a long break since the last one! Far from being forgotten, we have been busy with our members helping out with projects on their properties. See the 'Property Update' section for more details, it's well worth a read. Notice the number of properties that have been able to access funding assistance outside of the HHab Program.

Events

Healthy Habitats Bus Tour 2016

This year's bus tour will be held in spring, to make the most of the flowering season.



Come along to learn from what your Healthy Habitats colleagues have been doing. The tour will consist of a selection of 3-4 properties featured in this newsletter, finishing approximately 1:30pm. Morning tea and lunch will be provided!

Please book your bus seat by Friday Sept 30
kristy@landcaresj.com.au or 0407 526 989



The bus tour group in 2015

Property Updates

We encourage everyone to stay in touch with us, especially about on-ground project ideas for your property. There has been a record number over the past year, here is a summary of what your fellow members have been busy with. Let us know if you have more to add to the list!

Trish DeBruin Fencing

The DeBruin's received funding from the Healthy Habitats Program to exclude their cattle from 7ha of bushland, which includes stands of Jarrah and Sheoak, with plenty of intact understorey and only some minor pasture weeds. The fencing is already giving new growth to the understorey species and germination of the seed bank. The trick now is to stay on top of the weeds so that the natural regeneration process can crack on!



The DeBruin's new fence line with cattle on the left and the bushland on the right.



Even native plants outside of the fence have been protected!

Don Wood **Weed control and revegetation**

Healthy Habitats member Don Wood has been busy looking after 30ha of bushland on his property. HHab funding and advice has helped him recently with further revegetation which he has been carrying out in areas where there are no understorey species, mainly under mature Jarrah trees. Kangaroos are an issue, and Don has had to factor this in to species selection and planting methods. The funding has also assisted with the long term control of cape tulip which is threatening the areas of most intact vegetation. Don has worked hard for a very long time to keep this weed at bay.



The area being revegetated with understorey species



Seedlings with kangaroo protection

Diana Blacklock **Removal of weedy wattle species**

The Manjedal Brook and associated fertile soil running through Diana's property has beautiful natural bushland along it and plenty of challenging weeds such as a suite of Acacia species from the eastern states. The owner has done a sterling job eliminating these from their property and has now acquired the same responsibility for the adjacent property, where it is ten times worse - a jungle of Acacias suppressing the native vegetation. We were able to allocate a Green Army team there for two days of assistance to the property owners. The job is ongoing and will have a significant impact beyond the boundary of the property due to it being located at the very top of the catchment. (Once the weed is eliminated, the seed and propagules will no longer be conveyed along the creek line to lower in the landscape.)



The Green Army team working on the wattle

Peter Jacobs **Dieback treatment and removal of weedy Eucalyptus species**

Peter has successfully completed two on-ground projects funded by the Department of Parks and Wildlife Banksia Woodland Grants. The two most significant threats to his 12ha bushland were tackled: 1) The *Phytophthora* dieback front was treated with phosphite application, creating a buffer between the diseased and non-diseased areas. This treatment needs to be re-applied every 3-5 years and so it is essential for property owners to be able to access funding assistance; and, 2) *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* is an eastern states species that can become a significant weed issue in bushland due to its ability to prolifically

re-seed. Removing it from Peter’s property was an expensive and extensive undertaking (!) and was achieved in a short amount of time with use of machinery and a contractor. Management is ongoing as the seed store in the ground continues to germinate, these can be pulled out by hand while they are small.



The same area, before and after *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* removal

Elliott’s and Thompson’s Dieback treatment

These neighbouring properties have also made use of the Department of Parks and Wildlife Banksia Woodland Grants. There are significant areas of *Phytophthora* dieback in the Banksia woodland on both properties and the ongoing cost of treating the dieback front is tremendous, so it is a great relief to be able to access funding assistance to do this.



Dieback front mapped in red

Phil Collins Veldt grass control

The Collins are new HHab members and have jumped straight into a major on-ground project

tackling the most significant threat to their 15.5ha bushland – perennial veldt grass. Funding from the Peel-Harvey Catchment Council’s [Who are they? <http://www.peel-harvey.org.au/>] Community Environment Grants has made it possible to carry out a large scale spraying program this season, with a commitment from the landowners to perform follow-up control in subsequent seasons.



Setting up a flora quadrat in the bushland prior to controlling the veldt grass

Nicole Metcalf Veldt grass control

Perennial veldt grass is the target of another HHab project, thanks to funding from the Program. This time it is in 0.6ha of Banksia woodland, some of which is in excellent condition and the intention is to protect this from the invasive weed species and improve the health of the less robust areas. In addition, removing weeds (grasses in particular) is an excellent way of reducing fire hazard in native bushland.



Veldt grass can wash in from disturbed areas such as fire breaks

Linda and Trevor Starcevich Weed control and revegetation

This property has been a partnership site between HHab and the Peel-Harvey Catchment Council’s Rivers 2 Ramsar program. [What is

Ramsar? <http://www.ramsar.org/>] A combination of funding for weed control and revegetation, involving lots hard work and effort from the landowners, has resulted in a significant improvement to the 1ha area on the Serpentine River. The site includes a billabong that is perfect for restoring to its pre-European state.



Linda planting with helpers at the property last year

Jen and Sam Leighton Fencing and weed control

This property is also a partnership site between HHab and the Peel-Harvey Catchment Council's Rivers 2 Ramsar program. Over the past year, with funding assistance boosting hours of heavy labour by the landowners, weeds have been sprayed and pulled out along 1km of the Myara Brook to encourage natural regeneration of the native vegetation. The same area is now being fenced and will have the added benefit of cattle exclusion.



Discussing weeds along the creek line

Bodhinyana Buddhist Monastery Revegetation

Venerable Pasado has been spear-heading the difficult task of revegetating 3 large dams, amongst the Jarrah forest owned by the monastery, into 'living wetlands'. After synchronising a revegetation plan, species lists, ground preparation and many workers and volunteers, the dams have been planted with

wetland species to increase the habitat value, provide shade and improve water quality. This is the first year of planting, which will take place over several seasons.



Planting around the dams with the monastery community

Lee's and Bagshawe's Seed collecting

These two properties on the Darling Scarp and Plateau represent another partnership with the Peel-Harvey Catchment Council's Rivers 2 Ramsar program, which has funded some seasons of seed collecting. This is a good way of planning for future revegetation and direct seeding projects as part of a greater weed control and regeneration plan.

Healthy Habitats Contacts

Kristy Gregory - *Natural Resource Management Officer*

Email: kristy@landcaresj.com.au

Tel: 9526 0012

Mob: 0407526989

Dr Penny Hollick - *Botanist and Natural Area Ecologist*

Email: phollick@sjshire.wa.gov.au

Tel: 95261128