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Bunuru Season of Adolescence

February - March



The Noongar Season ‘Bunuru’ is represented by the colour orange and is the hottest time of the year.

With little to no rain and hot easterly and northerly winds followed by a cooling afternoon sea breeze for areas close to the coast. Freshwater foods and seafood made up much of the traditional Noongar people’s diet during Bunuru, along with fruits of the zamia (toxins removed), wattle seeds, banksia blossoms and various roots. A sweet drink was often made by soaking blossoms from gum trees in water.

The fading of the moodjar (*Nuytsia floribunda* - pictured) and the blossoming of the marri would signal the start of the hot Bunuru weather. The female zamia also begins to produce huge cones from its centre which slowly change to bright red, indicating they're ripening and becoming more attractive to animals, particularly emus, that will eat the toxic outer layer.

Now is also a good time to help out native insects, birds and animals by putting out additional water in your garden. Just make sure the dishes aren’t too deep and there is a means of escape for smaller animals if they fall in, like a rock or stick.

The Denmark Environment Centre created a beautiful video on the Bunuru season as seen from the Wilson Inlet. In the film Averil Dean and Lindsay Dean discuss the traditional food sources found on the inlet for traditional Noongar people living in the



West Cape Howe NP- Camera Maintenance and Image Retrieval



The Torbay Catchment Group has a camera array set up in West Cape Howe NP to monitor for ferals as part of our feral control measures and as an indicator of the program's success.

We have recently conducted camera maintenance and battery replacement and collected the images taken from the cameras and thought we would share some of the images. We are pleased to see a Western Ringtail possum, tiger snake and sparrowhawk all posing nicely for our cameras!

Climate Refugia Project Update



Since early last year TCG has been delivering a comprehensive cockatoo conservation program that extends across the catchment- from Redmond in the north, Lowlands and WCHNP in the west and Little Grove in the east. It includes fencing for remnant vegetation, revegetation, cockatoo monitoring and the installation of cockatubes.

We began our project with a workshop last year to build new cockatubes that had a wider diameter to better accommodate the large bird's tails. We garnered much advice and knowledge from black cockatoo expert Dr Sam Rycken from Birdlife Australia and we asked for your citizen science input on where cockatoos have been seen visiting and breeding in our area. Thanks to everyone who sent in a survey!

A huge amount of time and research has gone into searching for suitable locations to ensure a high chance of success and we have now installed nine new cockatubes in nearby properties.

The birds are clearly loving the new cockatubes as there has already been a successful breeding occur!

We have also been repurposing our older style cockatubes to much needed duckatubes and have been installing them where needed and next week we will be building possum and duck nestboxes in our workshop with Simon Cherriman. See below for booking information.

This project is supported by funding from the Western Australian Government's State Natural Resource Management Program.



Have your say on the proposed South Coast Marine Park

You can now have your say on four closely related indicative management plans that collectively form the proposed South Coast Marine Park. There is a separate management plan for each native title area to allow for joint management arrangements with the four Traditional Owner groups. Importantly, these four marine areas will be managed as one interconnected ecological system.

Please have your say on the indicative management plans and proposed zoning. Your feedback is important, and all feedback will be considered. The marine park will not be created until the final management plans, including final boundaries and zoning schemes, are approved by the Ministers for Environment; Fisheries; and Mines and Petroleum.

The public comment period will be open for four months, closing on Sunday 16 June 2024. **[Find out more about the proposed marine park here and have your say here.](#)**

Coastal Conversations - Groundswell

Want to be part of the Groundswell for coastal stewardship in WA?

This inaugural Groundswell free online event will spotlight the South Coast and is the first in a series of informal meet ups that will stream from regional locations along Western Australia's coastline. Open to all coastal custodians, citizen scientists, volunteers and others involved in coastal stewardship, topics discussed throughout the meeting shall include:

- Identifying who the people are working in coast care in your local region
- Recognising key priorities for engaged coastal and marine stewards
- Uncovering information that coastal stewards want (or need) others in the sector to know

- Sharing stories of coastal and marine rehabilitation and conservation success or challenge that are important to local communities

Find out more and join in here!

Coastal Conversations is led by WACMN in partnership with the WA Landcare Network (WALN) and funded by the Department of Planning Lands and Heritage (DPLH).

Upcoming Workshops and Events

Cultural Coastal Workshop

Wednesday 6th March, 9am-3pm

TCG is super excited to be partnering with Tangaroa Blue Foundation which is an Australia-wide not-for-profit organisation dedicated to the removal and prevention of marine debris, now a major worldwide environmental issue.

With our stunning biodiverse coastline and abundant natural fauna, we are keen to see works that protect and preserve our marine environment which is a critical and central aspect of the Torbay catchment and its community.

Join us for our first **Cultural Coastal Workshop** at Elleker Hall for an exclusive coastal, cultural, learning experience with Shandell Cummings, Aunty Lynette,

You will learn about the cultural significance of sea country, the importance of collecting data from beach clean-ups and the great opportunities available to get involved in protecting our local pristine beaches.

You will also have the unique opportunity to participate in your very own culturally inspired beach clean-up at Muttonbird.

Bring your favourite gloves, water bottle, hat, sun protection and wear appropriate footwear.

Morning tea and lunch will be provided. Please advise of any special dietary requirements.

This is a free event, but RSVP is essential as numbers are limited.

[Book Cultural Coastal Workshop](#)

Marine Debris Data Training

Thursday 7th March, 9am-12pm

Marine Debris Data Training

Thursday 7th March

Time: 9am - 12pm

Venue: Elleker Hall,

Hassell Street, ELLEKER

**FREE
EVENT**

BUNURU



natural resource
management program



This program is funded in part by the Western Australian Government's State Natural Resource Management Program.

This workshop is geared towards Natural Resource Management professionals and volunteers who are interested and/or working in the coastal environmental space.

debris collected from Day 1 and to learn more about the project capabilities of the Australian Marine Debris Initiative (ADMI).

This publicly accessible database which is managed by [Tarangaroa Blue Foundation](#) provides a framework for citizen scientists to "make their clean-up count" by entering their marine debris finds so that litter can be categorised, litter hot spots identified, and helping to drive source reduction strategies at a local, state and national level.

Optional afternoon beach clean-up at location to be determined.

Morning tea and lunch provided. Please advise of any special dietary requirements.

This is a free event, but RSVP is essential as spaces are limited.

[RSVP Marine Debris Data Training](#)

Nestbox Building Workshop
Saturday 24th February, 9am-3pm

Nestbox Building Workshop

with Simon Cherriman

24th February

9am-3pm



Build possum and duck nestboxes with Simon from Insight Ornithology, author of 'Hollowed Out'

Optional extra:
3-5pm installation demonstration and further questions

Torbay Hall
Morning Tea and Lunch provided



natural resource
management program



INSiGHT Ornithology

Hurry there are only a few spots left in our workshop on building possum and duck nestboxes with Simon Cherriman from Insight Ornithology and author of 'Hollowed out'.

Optional Extra:

Stay on from 3-5pm for an installation demonstration and further Q & A.

Includes morning tea and lunch.

Free for Torbay Catchment Group members and \$25 for non-members.

[Book Nestbox Building Workshop](#)

Accu-Spread Field Day

Tuesday 12th March, 9am-3pm



Is your spreader wasting fertiliser?

Join us at an Accu-Spread demonstration day to find out



Did you know that most fertiliser spreaders deliver highly variable spread patterns? This means some areas in the paddock receive too much fertiliser and others too little.

Join Australia's leading Accu-Spread specialist Russell Nichol for a hands-on workshop demonstrating how to test and calibrate your own fertiliser spreading equipment. A calibrated spreader can help you get the most from your fertiliser investment and reduce nutrient loss to waterways.

Date: Tuesday 12 March, 9am to 3pm

Location: 314 MARBELUP North Rd, Marbelup

Register: nrm@torbaycatchment.org.au

<https://www.trybooking.com/CPHTZ>

Lunch provided. Please register and specify any dietary requirements.
Let us know if you'd like your spreader to be tested (limited numbers!)



*This project is part of Healthy Estuaries WA, a State Government initiative to improve the health of our South West estuaries.
It is supported by Soil Wise. Soil Wise is funded by the National Landcare Program Smart Farms Small Grants – an Australian Government initiative.*

Accu-Spread Demonstration Day

Nutrient Calculator Sessions

Thursday 14th March, various times



Nutrient calculator sessions

Here to help you with your soil test data



Farmers in south-west Western Australia's high rainfall (>600 mm) areas are invited to a free one-on-one session using the nutrient calculator.

During the session you will be able to

- Work with a DPIRD representative or an agronomist to enter your own soil test data into the calculator
- Understand your soil's nutrient status and fertiliser requirements
- Get advice on nutrient management including fertiliser types and application rates

Bookings essential via your local catchment group

1hr timeslots available at 8.30am, 9.30am, 10.30am, 11.30am, 1.30pm, 2.30pm or 3.30pm

Thurs 14 March	Torbay catchment	nrmo@torbaycatchment.org.au
Fri 15 March	Wilson Inlet catchment	ag@wicc.org.au
Tues 19 March	Leschenault catchment	tony.battersby@leschenaultcc.org.au
Wed 20 March	Peel-Harvey catchment	megan.leroy@peel-harvey.org.au
Thurs 21 March	Geographe catchment	geocatch@dwer.wa.gov.au
Mon 25 March	Manjimup	kathy.dawson@warrencc.org.au
Tues 26 March	Lower Blackwood catchment	jourdyn.wells@lowerblackwood.com.au
Thurs 28 March	Oyster Harbour catchment	bruce.radys@ohcg.org.au



If you are a farmer in the Torbay Catchment area you might like to come along to a free one-on-one session on using the nutrient calculator to provide a better

The Torbay Catchment sessions are on Thursday 14th March at:
8.30am, 9.30am, 10.30am, 11.30am, 1.30pm, 2.30pm or 3.30pm.
Book your session here: nrmo@torbaycatchment.org.au

How to Create an Eco Orchard

Friday 12th April 10am-4pm

HOW TO CREATE AN ECO ORCHARD



Friday 12th April
10:00am – 4:00pm
Oranje Tractor Winery
198 Link Rd, Marbelup 6330
Presented by Mark Tupman

Tickets \$10- Bookings essential
Trybooking
<https://www.trybooking.com/CPHUT>
info@torbaycatchment.org.au



Join us for a full one-day interactive workshop and orchard tour of Oranje Tractor Wine that will assist participants to create Eco Orchards that require less inputs (including water), are carbon negative, and utilise household organic waste as biofertiliser!

Practices that increase soil fertility, nutrient cycling and plants resistance to pests and diseases will also be covered.

Hosted by Mark Tupman from Productive Ecology and held at the beautiful Oranje Tractor Wine which utilises organic and regenerative practices that work with nature and is fully carbon negative.

Tickets are \$10 which includes a delicious lunch and morning tea and a glass of wine in the afternoon!

About your host Mark Tupman:

Mark has been actively involved in the fields of organic/biodynamic production,

He has been worked in a number of educational, research, community and commercial projects throughout Western Australia and in between times, managed orchards, livestock and market garden enterprises on various properties.

His consultation and education business, Productive Ecology, specialises in the establishment and management of integrated living production systems to improve ecological and economical outcomes for growers.

He also works part time as the Witchcliffe Ecovillage horticulture manager and is a project advisor and content creator for the Lower Blackwood Catchment LCDC.

[Find out more about Productive Ecology here.](#)

Book here: [How to Create and Eco Orchard](#)

Great Cocky Count 2024

Sunday 14th April 5.15pm to 6.45pm



Join us for the Great Cocky Count

Every year, Birdlife Australia conducts The Great Cocky Count (GCC) which is a citizen-science survey, and the biggest single survey for black-cockatoos in Western Australia. In the lead-up to the GCC each year, they ask people to keep an eye out for

arrive in the evening. Records submitted from across south-western WA provide a snapshot of black-cockatoo populations, helping to quantify changes in their numbers.

Where can I take part in this survey?

The Great Cocky Count takes place in south-western Western Australia — south-west of a line between Geraldton and Esperance — on a single night in autumn. Citizen scientists can help in the lead-up to the GCC by locating night roosts (places where the black-cockatoos gather to sleep at night).

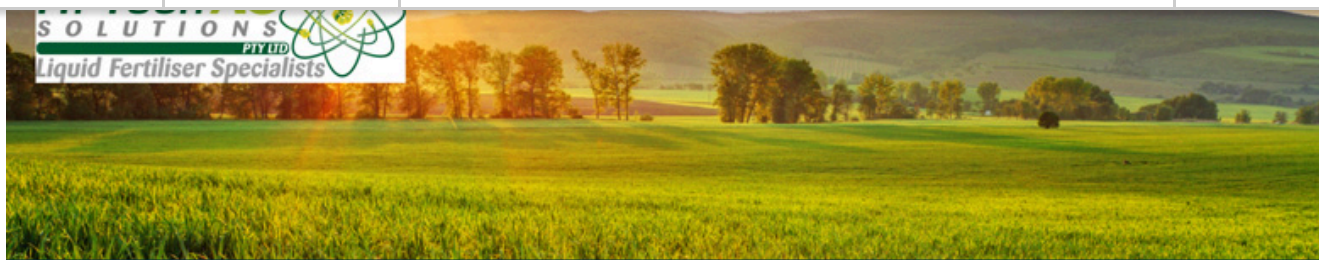
Simply **[register here to take part in the Great Cocky Count](#)** and you'll receive instructions and a site to survey.

TCG is hoping to create a group cocky count event to coincide with this. Watch this space for more information!

Soils/Pastures & Healthy Animals

28th February, 8.45am-11.30

Not a TCG event, but should be amazing as it is brought to you by local permaculture legend Lorna Thompson and friends! See flyer below for details.



SOILS/PASTURES & HEALTHY ANIMALS

WHERE DO WE START

Welcome to the first in a series of education seminars on understanding your base asset -The Soil.

In this interactive session we will offer you a working understanding of your soil that you are growing with and the best practice options to improve your soil chemistry and carbon sequestering potential and overall growing success.

Greg Barr from Newtech Minerals in SA will be talking about the natural composition of minerals that need to be present to achieve soil balance for pasture/crop & home food production.

Wayne Challis from Hi Tech Ag Solutions will cover a basic knowledge of soil sample interpretation with potential solutions.

Josh Freeman from Hi Tech Ag Solutions will expand on the efficiencies of liquid nutrition and their ability to bypass problems in the soil.

Local Food Forrest identity Lorna Thompson will share a brief presentation on the trial that has been running for two years on her small holding in Albany. Lorna has followed the Hi-Tech Ag program to aid her in addressing some critical limiting factors that we all share in the high rainfall Lower Great southern.

Lorna also brings a plethora of knowledge to animal thrift from pastures and grains as well as animal's responses to nutritional balance supporting improved health.

We invite you to join us - King River Hall – 1520 Millbrook Road, Albany
Wednesday February 28th 8.45-11.30 am

Cost: \$5.00 [only cash please to cover tea & biscuits]

RSVP is appreciated - for more information call Wayne on 0429 597 056

Getting to Know Your Ferals (coming soon)

do to help manage them in this informative workshop.

Coming soon...

Festival of Torbay- October 2024

We are hoping this will be **BIG!!!**

Watch this space as we look to celebrate Torbay with a huge festival event including live music and fun activities!

Mining Update

Thanks so much to everyone who has donated to the funding of a barrister and legal support to help the objectors to the local mineral exploration applications.

Thanks to your support, we are now very close to meeting our target.

Here is the link if you would still like to contribute:

<https://www.trybooking.com/au/donate/nomining>

or via Direct Deposit:

Account Name: Torbay Catchment Group Inc

BSB:633-000

Account No: 150285229

Please use reference: Mining Fund

WA Feral Cat Survey

As part of their feral cat strategy, the Department of Biosecurity, Conservation and Attractions are wanting to gauge the public's perception and acceptance surrounding the management of feral cats.

Here is a link to a short survey if you would like to share your thoughts on feral cat management in WA: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/237X87J>



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