



SOUTHCOAST
NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT INC.



Media Release

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A weedy affair in the Porongurups

Partners of the Porongurup Weed Control Project gathered at the Porongurup Shop and Tearooms last Friday to enjoy some tea and scones and reflect on three years of hard work.

Minister for Agriculture and Food Terry Redman joined local landholders and representatives from Oyster Harbour Catchment Group, Friends of the Porongurup Range, South Coast NRM, Department of Environment and Conservation, Department of Agriculture and Food, and the Shire of Plantagenet for morning tea to celebrate their success in controlling weeds inside and around the National Heritage-listed Porongurup Range National Park.

Oyster Harbour Catchment Group chair Heather Adams said the Porongurup Weed Control Project was one of the most successful projects the Oyster Harbour Catchment Group had been associated with.

The project began in 2007 after a wildfire burnt more than 5,000 hectares of land in the national park and on private property. Not long after, environmental weeds such as Blackberry, Dolichos Pea, Red Valerian, Taylorina and introduced wattles started to proliferate, posing a threat to biodiversity in the region.

“The project’s success is largely due to the wonderful support and commitment of the local community and the project partners. Many landholders are actively contributing to the project by controlling declared and environmental weeds on their properties,” Ms Adams said.

As a result, significant progress has been made to control declared and environmental weeds in and around the Porongurup Range National Park, with DEC crews working inside the park and Oyster Harbour Catchment Group, landholders and supporting agencies, working to create a five kilometre buffer free of weeds around the park.

South Coast NRM chief executive Rob Edkins congratulated the project partners on their enormous success and said it was working with Oyster Harbour Catchment on applications for further government funding for 2010-11.

The not-for-profit group has invested over \$500,000 into the project so far through the Australian Government’s former National Heritage Trust (NHT) program, National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality (NAP) program, and the current Caring for our Country initiative.

“Out of adversity, we’ve had a great opportunity to manage weeds of national significance in and around the park,” Mr Edkins said.

“We are very pleased with the way the project has been managed and delivered. It’s great to see that native endemic plants have managed to recover and flourish in the area.”

For more information on the project and its achievements contact Oyster Harbour Catchment Group project coordinator Lisa Braun on (08) 9853 2171 or mobile 0458 532 170.

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South Coast Natural Resource Management Inc. is the leading regional group for natural resource management on the South Coast of Western Australia. As an independent non-profit organisation, we work with the community to improve the environment by preserving and protecting unique plants and animals, managing land and waterways, and sharing knowledge and skills in natural resource management.