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Acknowledgment of Country

As an organisation, South Coast NRM recognises and respects that we live and work on the traditional lands of First Nations people. We acknowledge and honour First Nations people as the spiritual and cultural custodians of this land, and we recognise the ongoing importance of their values, languages, beliefs, and knowledge.

We are committed to working in partnership with First Nations peoples to support and promote respectful cultural and ecological practices, and to ensure that their land, culture, and knowledge is respected and protected. We acknowledge and pay our respects to Elders, past, present and emerging, and extend this respect to all First Nations peoples.

CEO update

Welcome to 2026.

I'm grateful to be part of a community that shows resilience, care for our land and sea, and a shared commitment to one another—though there is still more work to do on each of these fronts. The year has begun with severe fires across the Fitzgerald River National Park and surrounding areas, underscoring how quickly the places we love, recreate in, and care for can change.

Designated in 1973, Fitzgerald River National Park holds immense cultural and ecological significance for our region and is deeply important to many people. For tens of thousands of years, Noongar groups have managed this place, and more recently, a broad coalition of community groups, landholders, government agencies, and South Coast NRM has continued that care. Our current funding focus in this priority place includes expanding cultural land management activities, threatened species conservation, dieback management, integrated pest control, and improving nesting habitat for the endangered Carnaby's cockatoo. I know many of our partners and regional community members have been heavily involved in the fire response, and I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who has worked to contain and respond to the latest fires along the south coast.

As climate change progresses, our landscapes and communities will continue to face new pressures—and new opportunities. We need to tackle these challenges on multiple fronts. These challenges must be tackled on multiple fronts. While progress toward net zero continues, regional leadership remains critical. We must plan collectively to sustain valuable agriculture and forestry, alongside tourism, logistics, and renewable energy opportunities. These recent fire events underscore the importance of working together—across communities, First Nations, industry, and government. By uniting our strengths and securing additional resources, we can help our natural environment adapt and recover while also supporting jobs and celebrating culture through shared learning and activities. Nature is infrastructure: a foundation for a resilient economy and thriving communities.

Looking ahead, South Coast NRM will continue to protect and restore our natural resources together. Our commitment is simple: to listen, to act with integrity, and to empower those who care for Country. Together, we

can create an environment that is healthy, biodiverse, and supports resilient and productive communities.

Warm regards,

Luke

Right Whale Project

As the seasons shift from Birak to Bunuru, rising temperatures and intense easterly winds draw people to the sheltered bays of our beautiful south coast. These same bays are familiar resting places for the endangered southern right whales during the colder months.

Throughout Birak and Bunuru, however, the whales are spending their time in the Antarctic waters, where they feed to build vital energy stores and teach their young to forage and grow strong. This preparation supports their long migration back to our southern shores, with the first individuals typically arriving in late Djeran.

While the whales are away, our team has been busy analysing photo images from the 2025 survey season, uncovering the stories revealed through the efforts of citizen scientists and Indigenous Rangers. How many individual whales were identified? Which areas recorded the most sightings? And which whales have returned to visit our coast in previous years?

To discover what we've learned, join us at the Right Whale Tracker Regional Forum for a sundowner event:

- Albany – Tuesday 10 March
- Hopetoun – Wednesday 11 March

To register your interest, contact Project Coordinator Laura Bird at [✉ laurab@southcoastnrm.com.au](mailto:laurab@southcoastnrm.com.au).

To learn more about the project, visit southcoastnrm.com.au/southern-right-whale.

This is a collaboration between South Coast Cetaceans, South Coast Natural Resource Management, Oceans Blueprint and Edith Cowan University, and supported by Citizen Scientists, Albany Tour Boat Operators, Albany's Historic Whaling Station, the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, Department of Biodiversity and Cultural Attractions and the Australian Government under the National Environmental Science Program. The Project is supported by funding from the Western Australian Government's State NRM Program. Together, we're working to protect these gentle giants 💙

RIGHT WHALE TRACKER PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

© Steve Pontin



© Lynn McLaren



© Alastair Heslop



**SAVE
THE
DATE**

TUESDAY MARCH 10TH 2026
Albany's Historic Whaling Station,
81 Whaling Station Rd

WEDNESDAY MARCH 11TH 2026
Hopetoun CRC Rear Foyer, 46 Veal
Street, Hopetoun



This is a collaboration between South Coast Cetaceans, South Coast Natural Resource Management, Oceans Blueprint and Edith Cowan University, and supported by Citizen Scientists, Albany Tour Boat Operators, Albany's Historic Whaling Station, the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, Department of Biodiversity and Cultural Attractions and the Australian Government under the National Environmental Science Program. The Project is supported by funding from the Western Australian Government's State NRM Program.



SOUTHCOAST
NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT



natural resource
management program



Urban Possum Project

The Urban Possum Project is gearing up for the final western ringtail possum monitoring season. This spotlighting season will see volunteers walking through five bush sites spotlighting for the critically endangered western ringtail possum. This species has seen its habitat range decrease by 90% since European settlement, with Albany being one of the only places in the world where you can spot them in their natural habitat.

In March we will be conducting spotlighting in 5 key bush reserves around Albany. Volunteers will walk in pairs along pre-defined 100 m transects with head torches, scanning both sides of the transect for western ringtail possums and recording any sightings on the field data sheet. This is a great opportunity to meet like-minded people and see some of the local wildlife, all while actively contributing to the recovery of the western ringtail possum!

If you are interested in volunteering, please reach out to Renae at renaev@southcoastnrm.com.au for more information.

This spotlighting season is part of the Urban Western Ringtail Possum project, which is a collaboration between South Coast NRM, Oyster Harbour Catchment Group, Torbay Catchment Group, UWA-Albany, City of Albany, Southern Aboriginal Corporation and Cat Laws and Wildlife Survival Group and is supported by South Coast NRM through funding from the Australian Government Saving Native Species Program.



“Filming Threatened Flora Conservation in the Fitz-Stirling Priority Place

Under the Fitz- Stirling Priority Place project the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) have been leading critical work to protect and conserve threatened flora and ecological communities in the Fitzgerald River National Park, the Stirling Range National Park and beyond.

Some of the key achievements so far include:

- The translocation of 10 threatened flora species at both in-situ and ex-situ translocation sites. Maintaining a critical lifeline for these species and reducing extinction risk.
- The establishment of a new translocation site for *Banksia ionthocarpa* subsp. *ionthocarpa*, an Endangered species.
- 28 days spent collecting seeds from more than 13 threatened flora species
- 20 flora surveys, 9 habitat condition assessments and 4 plant survival surveys already completed.

In January South Coast NRM and DBCA Staff starred in a video highlighting some of this important work, under the backdrop of the Stirling Ranges. Stay tuned for the video release in the next couple of weeks on our social

Shorebird ID Skills Sharpened for Esperance Surveys!

The Esperance Bird Observers’ Group Inc. (EBOG) and Esperance Tjaltjraak Native Title Aboriginal Corporation (ETNTAC) were thrilled to host Dr Lindall Kidd, the National Migratory Shorebird Coordinator from Birdlife Australia, to conduct a workshop on identifying tips and counting techniques in late February this year. Through the Lake Gore Project, South Coast NRM is supporting the delivery of annual shorebird surveys across Esperance’s two Ramsar Wetland systems at Lake Gore and Lake Warden. However, dedicated EBOG volunteers have monitored resident and migratory waterfowl and shorebirds for decades across wetland, estuary and beach systems from Stokes Inlet to Yokinup Bay.

Dr Kidd has seen it all, having researched up in the Arctic tundra where the migratory shorebirds we see here in Australia during the austral summer return in the boreal summer to breed in the marshes. Her passion for caring for these incredible birds – some of which weigh as little as a fun-sized Mars bar and can fly non-stop across thousands of kilometres to Siberia – was infectious and she had us all intently absorbing the importance the data collected by annual shorebird surveys have in informing national and international conservation management, and also informs population estimates across the East Asian – Australasian Flyway. With Australia hosting the shorebirds for at least six months of the year, we have a responsibility to maintain our wetlands and catchments to the most pristine standard to ensure that these birds have a haven after an arduous migration.

The workshop provided an opportunity for seasoned EBOG surveyors and curious community members alike to understand the ecology of the shorebirds, the physiological mystery of how they are able to maintain pumping wing action non-stop when flying for weeks, and the pressures they are facing worldwide. After a morning of theory, Dr Kidd took participants out to practice their techniques on the shores of Lake Warden, where we were fortunate to have our counting skills tested on a mixed flock of over 2000 banded stilt and a dozen or so red-necked avocet, and the presence of the Western Australian hooded plover, a subspecies that has vastly different behaviour to the threatened eastern hooded plover.

On behalf of EBOG, ETNTAC and all who attended, South Coast NRM thanks Dr Lindall Kidd for sharing her enthusiasm and expertise, and we hope that we will have some people inspired to try shorebird surveying for the next couple of seasons!

This project is funded by the Australian Government’s Natural Heritage Trust and delivered through South Coast Natural Resource Management Inc., a member of the Commonwealth Regional Delivery Partners Panel.

Photo 1 & 2 Credit Hugo Crisp



Hugh Crisp





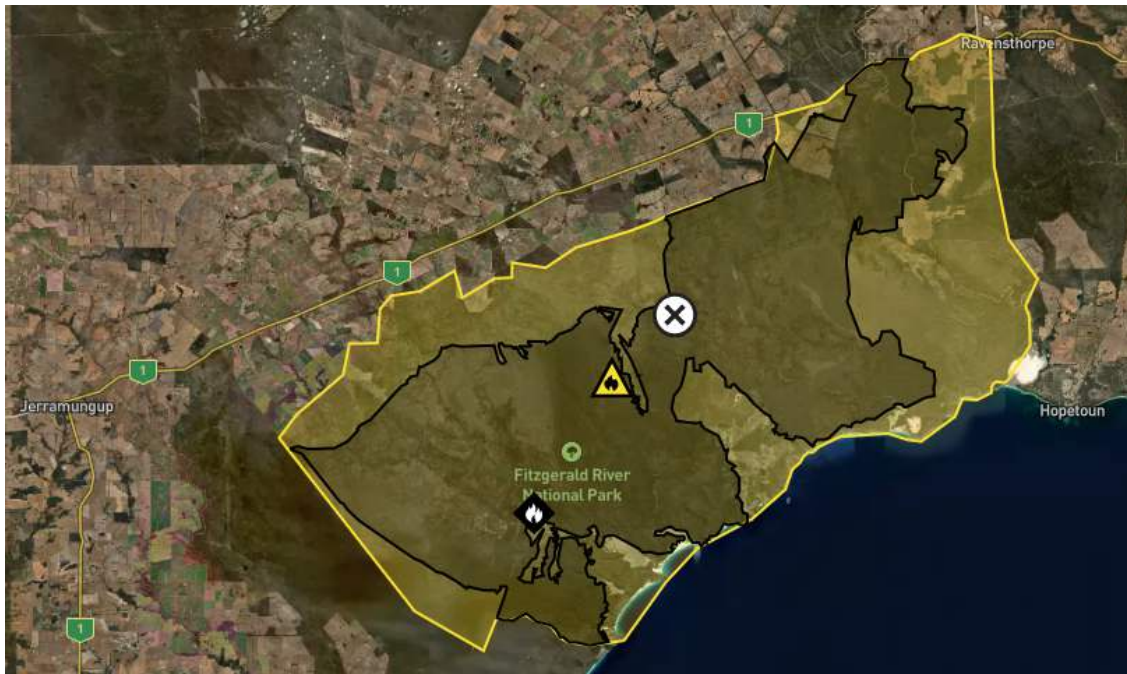
Threatened Fauna

Western Ground Parrot/ Kyloriny conservation has been a roller-coaster journey over the last couple of months. After more than a decade of effort, there was exciting news with a world-first successful hatching of a Kyloriny in captivity, providing optimism that captive breeding could potentially play a role in the species conservation in the future. However, this excitement was quickly tempered by a recent bushfire in Cape Arid National Park, the last remaining natural stronghold for the species, which is estimated to have impacted around 30 per cent of its habitat. For more information see a recent article: <https://shorturl.at/XQ5Gv>. A second, and even larger-scale fire has also impacted the Fitzgerald River National Park burning more than 140,000 ha impacting many other threatened species in the South Coast region.

The Cape Arid fire highlights just how fragile the remaining Kyloriny population is and reinforces the importance of on ground conservation efforts undertaken by DBCA in partnership with other local conservation organisations to help secure the species' future. We are proud that our *Threatened Fauna* Project helps to support this critical work, including by assisting DBCA's feral cat trapping, introduced predator monitoring, and ongoing population monitoring of Kyloriny work in Cape Arid National Park. These actions are now more critical than ever.

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to our partners at DBCA, along with the hundreds of volunteers and the many organisations who worked tirelessly over the past few weeks to battle the fires at Cape Arid National Park and Fitzgerald River National Park. We are deeply grateful for their dedication, courage and commitment to protect these landscapes and the wildlife that depend on them.

The *Threatened Fauna* Project is guided by the South Coast Threatened Birds and Gilbert's Potoroo Recovery Teams and is delivered through a partnership between South Coast NRM, DBCA, the Gilbert's Potoroo Action Group, Friends of the Western Ground Parrot, BirdLife Australia, and the Albany Bird Group. The project is funded by the Australian Government's Natural Heritage Trust.



Whidby Basin

Progress has been made at Whidby Street basin, the most upstream site in the Restoring Upper Yakamia for Biodiversity project. With earthworks now complete, what was once a highly degraded basin has now been reshaped into the foundations of a living wetland - and the transformation is already striking.

The enlarged basin will help to prevent flooding while also slowing flows and capturing sediments before they move downstream toward Oyster Harbour. Upcoming weed control and installation of jute matting will prepare the site for the planting of approximately 10,000 locally sourced native seedlings which will help reduce nutrient loads and create valuable habitat for local wildlife, including threatened species such as black cockatoos and western ringtail possums.

Soon, the 'Whidby Street Living Wetland' will enhance biodiversity, improve water quality, and create a more welcoming space for the local community. It's an exciting phase for the project and another big step forward for Yakamia Creek!

This project is funded by the Australian Government's Natural Heritage Trust under the Urban Rivers and Catchments Program, with support from The City of Albany. This project is a part of Healthy Estuaries WA - a State Government program that aims to improve the health of our South West estuaries.

Photo Credits: South Coast NRM



November 2025



January 2026



November 2025



January 2026

Sustainable Agriculture update

February-March is one of the few times of the year where farming pressures ease enough for producers to take time off farm to spend time with other farmers, hear from industry experts and researchers, learn new skills – and of course have some fun! Below we've compiled a list of some of the key events taking place across the South Coast region over the next two months – scroll down to see what's on the agenda this summer.

But first – the events and workshops that we and others hold across the South Coast region are always best when they respond to the needs of growers. If you are a primary producer, please take a moment to fill out our Future-Ready South Coast survey, and let us know where you feel you need more information or support. The survey takes about 7 minutes to complete.

Let us know what information or skills you need as a primary producer – [click here to fill out the survey](#).

Feral Pig control workshop – Wednesday 11 February 2026

Just before Christmas it came to our attention that a feral pig population has emerged an hour west of Esperance. Feral pigs are a major threat to crops, farm infrastructure such as fences, native vegetation and wildlife, and controlling this initial population before it becomes widespread is vital to prevent serious damage.

In this workshop hosted by the Esperance Biosecurity Association and the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, the community are invited to learn more about the issue and find out how to help address it. Our Esperance-based Sustainable Agriculture Facilitator Jayme Burkett will present on the risks feral pigs pose to Esperance's natural environment.

If you are interested in attending this free event on Wednesday 11 February, please contact EBA's Veronika Reck at eba.wilddog@outlook or by texting 0459 084 077, with attendee names, numbers and dietary requirements.

Feral Pig Control Workshop

Esperance Biosecurity Group (EBA) and Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) invite you to a community workshop to learn about feral pig control

Wednesday 11th February 2025

8:45am – 3.00pm

**Venue: Esperance Deep Sea Angling
Club, 99 Daw Dr**



AGENDA

8:45am	Welcome and introductions	
9:00am	Feral pig behaviour, impacts, signs of presence	Peter Adams DPIRD
10:00am	Risks of feral pigs to the local environment	Jayne Burkett Southcoast NRM
10:20am	Morning tea	
10:45am	Baiting and pre feeding techniques	Jason Dearle Blackwood RBG
11:15am	Obtaining a restricted chemical permit (Virtual)	Zara Matthews DPIRD
11:45am	Camera monitoring and data collection	Peter Adams DPIRD
12:15am	Reporting feral pigs	Kim Loveridge DPIRD
12:30pm	Lunch	
13:15pm	Hog Hopper and baiting equipment demonstration	Jason Dearle Blackwood Biosecurity Group
13:45pm	Pig trap set up demonstrations	Diesel Crowley LMDPPEG

**Morning tea and lunch will be provided. Please advise dietary requirements
RVSP to Veronika Reck on 0459084077 or eba.wilddog@outlook.com by 6th
February 2026**

South Coast events update

There's something for everyone in February and March – from GRDC updates to soil amelioration workshops and even a gala ball in Gairdner.

13 Feb – [GRDC Farm Business Update & SCF Trails Review – Porongurup](#) (hosted by Stirlings to Coast Farmers)

16-17 Feb – [GRDC Grains Research Update – Perth](#)

23 Feb – [GRDC Grains Research Update – Beaumont](#) (hosted by SEPWA)

23 Feb - [GRDC Seeder Setup Workshop: Maximising Seeding Success – South Stirling](#)

24 Feb - [GRDC Seeder Setup Workshop: Maximising Seeding Success – Ravensthorpe](#)

26 Feb - [Soil amelioration upskilling – variable soil types – Broomehill](#) (hosted by Broomehill Cropping Group)

27 Feb - [Soil amelioration upskilling – variable soil types – Kendenup](#) (hosted by Stirlings to Coast Farmers)

6-7 March – [Wagin Woolorama](#)

10-11 March – Carbon in Productive Farming workshops in Ongerup and Frankland – contact us at ag@southcoastnrm.com.au for more information and to register

14 March – [Dancing in the Dirt – Gairdner](#) (host by Fitzgerald Biosphere Group)

18 March – WALRC Livestock Matters Forum – 30kms east of Katanning ([subscribe to the WALRC newsletter for updates](#))

19 March – [The Great Southern Salinity Summit – Tambellup](#) (Hosted by the Gillamii Centre)

21 March – [Condingup P&C Community Fair](#) – Condingup

25 March – [ASHEEP & BEEF Autumn Field Day](#) – Esperance

Time to Lime?

Many agricultural soils in southern Australia require applications of lime to stay productive, as natural processes associated with cropping and grazing lead to increasing soil acidity over time.

Lime is often applied in autumn, so now is a good time to consult your soil test results and consider whether your property is due for an application of lime.

Some resources to assist producer decision making:

- [iLime app](#) - (DPIRD) – a practical tool to estimate how lime applications may affect soil pH, yield and profitability, and compares different potential liming strategies
- From the Soil Quality Knowledge Base, check out the detailed articles explaining the challenge of [Soil Acidity](#) and how [Agricultural Lime](#) works to address this challenge.

All The Latest News

Looking for more? To stay up to date with all our latest news, head to our website or social media channels.



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