

The Leaf'let

Environment & Sustainability Newsletter

DEC 2025

The recent bushfire caused significant damage to the Chapman River Regional Park (CRRP). Over 100 ha of the CRRP was burnt in the northern end of the park.

A big shout-out to everyone involved in both the firefighting efforts and the subsequent clean-up. In this edition of the Leaf'let, we acknowledge both pre-fire successes and post-fire effort. The Environment and Sustainability team is busy planning park recovery works including pest and weed control, erosion control, and revegetation.

Post fire efforts

Thank you to the Yamatji Southern Regional Corporation (YSRC) Rangers, Aussie Tree Services and Midwest Mulching Mowing for their swift post-fire remedial work, making Chapman River Regional Park safe for visitors. Their efforts included removing structural damage and dangerous overhanging branches and clearing fallen trees on trails.

Please stay vigilant when visiting the CRRP as some of the park infrastructure and assets has been lost or damaged during the bushfire. If you see wildlife injured or in distress, please report it to one of the following:

Wildcare Helpline: 08 9474 9055

Waggrakine Wildlife: 0439 796 633

GG Wildlife Rescue: 0401 272 608

Just Raptors Rehabilitation Centre: 0429 028 711



Structurally unsafe trees and plants at risk of falling were removed to ensure park user safety and left on site to provide habitat for wildlife.



YSRC ranger removing a hazardous tree limb along the CRRP loop trail to ensure visitor safety.

Do you have a local environmental initiative, success story, or sustainability tip you'd love to share with the community? The Environmental and Sustainability team would love to hear from you!

Send your stories to: environmentalplanning@cgg.wa.gov.au

Upcoming EVENTS



10 January 2026: Wetlands Photography Competition deadline

29-30 January 2026: Rabbit Control Workshops

2 February 2026: World Wetlands Day

Celebrate World Wetlands Day

If you love taking a walk along the Chapman River and Greenough River Estuaries, why not take some snaps while you're out and enter the Wetlands Photography Competition to celebrate the upcoming World Wetlands Day.



Submit your photos to crfriends2014@gmail.com by the 10th January 2026 and see all the wonderful photos showcasing our estuaries at the Geraldton Regional Library throughout February 2026.

This event is a wonderful collaboration between Chapman River Friends, BirdLife Midwest-Geraldton and Northern Agricultural Catchments Council (NACC). Visit [CRF's Facebook page](#) for more details.

Pre-fire wins in Chapman River Regional Park



The new Sheoak Trail

Nature's walk with a splash of pink

A new trail has been added to the Chapman River Regional Park Trail Network. The Sheoak Trail adjoins the Estuary Trail along the river, is 165m long and is a Grade 3 trail for walkers only. The Sheoak trail is a great shady spot for some bird watching or to just pause and take in the view.

Exciting Discovery in CRRP!

During a recent walk, Chapman River Friends made an exciting find in the Chapman River Regional Park—a Bush Bean (*Vincetoxicum lineare*, formerly *Rhyncharrhena linearis*). This unique plant was cleverly hidden, growing intertwined with a Native Yam, making it tricky to spot!

This species has never been recorded in CRRP or around Geraldton before, making the discovery even more significant. It's still unknown whether more Bush Beans are present in the park, but rest assured—we'll be keeping an eye out!

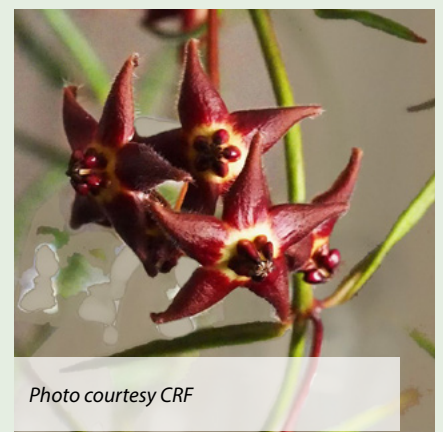


Photo courtesy CRF

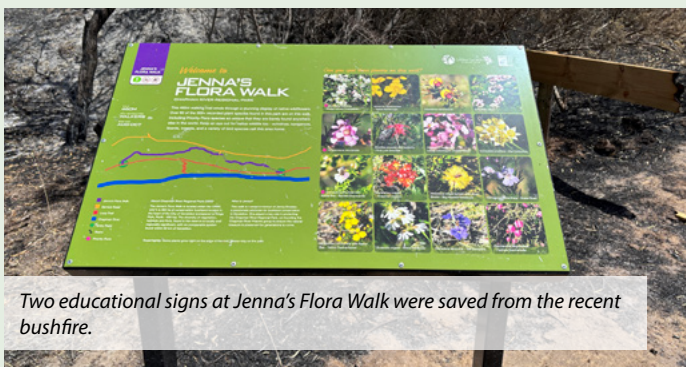
Spotlight on Jenna's Flora Walk

Jenna's Flora Walk is one of the most diverse areas in the Chapman River Regional Park, home to several Priority flora species. To protect these plants from accidental bike damage, barriers have been installed at trail entrances, along with two beautiful informative signs designed by Chapman River Friends. These signs not only designed to help protect the flora but also provide educational opportunities for visitors.

In September, Chapman River Friends hosted their final guided bushwalk of the season at Jenna's Flora Walk. The event celebrated the unveiling of the new signage and featured special guests from the Environment & Sustainability team, who shared updates on projects within the park.



Photos courtesy CRF: CGG Environmental team at CRF bush walk



Two educational signs at Jenna's Flora Walk were saved from the recent bushfire.

Trail Updates and Community Highlights

After the recent wet season, the City's contractors undertook hazard reduction vegetation management works on the main trails in the Chapman River Regional Park (CRRP), Chapman River Estuary, and Greenough River Reserve. These works make accessing the trails easier and safer over the summer months — perfect for spotting wildlife and enjoying the scenery.

This year's remediation works on the Loop Trail are well underway. The focus will be on user safety, track stabilisation, and erosion control, ensuring the trail remains a great place for walking and exploring. Keep an eye out for 'workman ahead' signage.



Remediation works are well underway

As part of the City's Integrated Rabbit Control Program, rabbit warren deconstruction has been underway along the northeastern boundary of the CRRP. Earlier in the year, the City partnered with local property owners to release calicivirus (RHDV1 K5), followed by pindone baiting, helping to protect our natural areas.

Looking ahead, planning for next year's revegetation program is already in motion! The Environment & Sustainability team has ordered around 17,000 native plants from the Community Nursery for projects across natural and coastal areas in 2026. Preparations, including site works and fencing, are also being organised.



Day by Day, Thorn by Thorn

In September, the City teamed up with Central Regional TAFE and the Yugunga-Nya Rangers to tackle an invasive species—Prickly Pear—within the Chapman River Regional Park. This collaborative effort wasn't just about weed removal; it was also an educational opportunity

for the Rangers to learn best-practice techniques for managing this challenging plant.

By working together, we're helping protect the park's biodiversity and ensuring our natural spaces remain healthy for future generations.



Did You Know?

Prickly Pear (*Opuntia stricta*), a member of the Opuntoid cacti family, is more than just a thorny nuisance—it's a declared pest under Western Australia's *Biosecurity and Agricultural Management Act 2007* and is listed nationally as a Weed of Significance.

Originally introduced from the Americas for garden hedges and cochineal dye production, this cactus quickly became invasive. Its rapid growth forms dense patches that harbour pests and outcompetes native vegetation, threatening biodiversity in our natural areas.



Prickly Pear in the CRRP before it was removed.



Community Nursery Highlights

The Community Nursery is looking fresh after a well-deserved makeover this year! Updates include a fresh coat of paint, a new sink, and improved lighting and fans—creating a more comfortable and efficient space for our dedicated volunteers and Community Nursery Officer.

With the propagation season now in full swing, the team is back to getting their hands dirty. This season, up to 25,000 plants are expected to be grown for Geraldton's natural areas, coastal restoration projects, and the City's street tree program in 2026.

A big thank you to our volunteers for their ongoing commitment to greening our community!



The new propagation season underway



Well-deserved Christmas BBQ celebrating the efforts of our hardworking volunteers.

Take our trails survey

It's been nearly eight years since the Chapman River Loop Trail was formalised and since then all the trails in the Chapman River Regional Park have grown in popularity. This is especially true for the shared Loop Trail, which is designated as a Moderate blue mountain biking route and a Grade 3 walking track.

Whether you're a regular walker, jogger, cyclist, horse rider or nature enthusiast we want to hear your thoughts on how the trails are being used today. Your insights will give us a better understanding of when and where people go and what they do while they are visiting the Park. It will also help us identify potential safety improvements that will result in better trail experiences for everyone.

If you would like to complete the survey it is available online via the City's [website](#) or scan this QR code:



Kind Reminder

Wildflower Picking

Do you know that picking wildflowers for any purpose requires a Flora Licence from the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA).

To avoid a potential fine, visit the DBCA website [here](#) for more information.



Hands-On Learning at St Georges Beach

In October, the Environment & Sustainability team hosted a Coastcare educational workshop at St Georges Beach for the local Homeschool Association group, who had reached out to the City for this unique learning experience.

The day began with an insightful talk from NACC about coastal erosion processes, followed by Environmental Officers explaining how the City is working to mitigate these impacts. To put theory into practice, the children rolled up their sleeves and helped lay hessian matting before planting over 100 native coastal seedlings—a fantastic way to learn about erosion control and habitat restoration.

A big thank you to the kids and parents who joined us and contributed to caring for our coastline! .



From nest to sky

Our resident osprey parents have been busy teaching their fledglings the art of flight! In October, the young birds were spotted soaring close to their nest—a wonderful sign of growth and independence.

The Environment & Sustainability team is keeping a close eye on the family and patiently waiting for them to fully leave the nest. Once they do, maintenance repairs to the nesting support structure will be carried out to ensure it remains safe and sturdy for future generations.



Photo courtesy Heather Beswick –
Osprey juvenile Point Moore

H5 Bird Flu Alert

The H5 strain of Avian Influenza has spread across all continents except Australia (bar Heard Island). However, with migratory shorebirds returning for summer, there is a potential risk of introduction—posing serious threats to our bird populations.

If you notice a group of dead birds in one area, this could be a sign of H5 bird flu. **Please report it immediately to the Emergency Animal Disease Hotline on 1800 675 888.**

For more information about H5 bird flu and how you can help protect our wildlife, visit [BirdLife Australia](https://www.birdlifeaustralia.org.au/).

WHAT TO DO

Do not touch or pick up! Do the following



Avoid



Record



Report



City of
Greater Geraldton
a vibrant future



P: 9956 6600 E: council@cgg.wa.gov.au
www.cgg.wa.gov.au

Tiny beetle, big trouble

Polyphagous Shot Hole Borer (PSHB) is a tiny invasive beetle from Southeast Asia that causes dieback in trees, with many Australian native trees as susceptible hosts. PSHB was first detected in a Perth suburb in 2021, and the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) have been leading a coordinated biosecurity response to the outbreak. The impact of this tiny beetle can be devastating, with many of our native trees at risk if the outbreak spreads beyond Perth's Quarantine Area.

If you see any native or non-native trees in Geraldton with the following symptoms, please report it to the MyPestGuide Reporter app, or contact DPIRD's Pest and Disease



Information Service on (08) 9368 3080 or padis@dpird.wa.gov.au

- Bore holes the size of a ballpoint pen
- Dark galleries/tunnels
- Frass or sugar volcanoes
- Lesions
- Visit DPIRD's [website](#) for more information



Wildlife on the move

Now that the warm weather is here, please be mindful of wildlife on the move on both roads and nature trails.



Tips to Stay Safe in Natural Areas:

- **Watch your step** – Be observant of where you walk, especially in grassy or bushy areas.
- **Make noise** – Talking or walking noisily can help alert wildlife to your presence and give them time to move away.
- **Don't touch** – Never attempt to handle or provoke wildlife.
- **Keep your distance** – If you encounter any fauna, maintain a safe distance and observe quietly.

If You Are Bitten by a Snake:

- Do not move – Keep as still as possible to slow the spread of venom through your bloodstream.
- Call 000 immediately – Stay calm and wait for emergency assistance.

By staying cautious and respectful, we can all enjoy the beauty of our natural spaces while keeping ourselves and our wildlife safe.



Commonly used abbreviations

- **CRF** – Chapman River Friends
- **CRRP** – Chapman River Regional Park
- **DBCA** – Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions
- **DPIRD** – Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development
- **DPLH** – Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage
- **DWER** – Department of Water and Environmental Regulation
- **CGG** – City of Greater Geraldton
- **NACC** – Northern Agricultural Catchments Council
- **PSHB** – Polyphagous Shot Hole Borer
- **YSRC** – Yamatji Southern Regional Corporation



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