

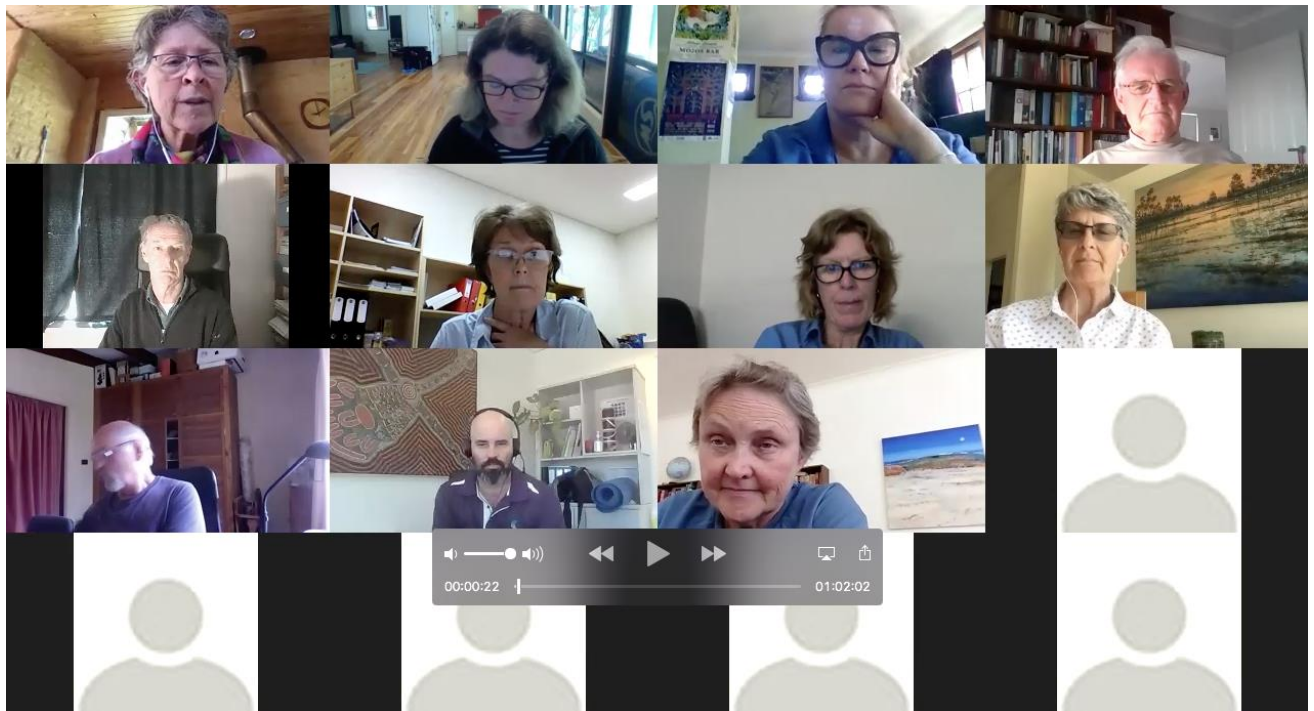


Landcare Checks In - Monday 21st October 2020 at 2.00 – 3.00 pm

Discussion Topic: Talking Pollinators

- The current status of pollinators in WA
- What current research is being undertaken?
- What are the current threats and how do we protect our pollinators?

View the recording here http://www.landcarewa.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/zoom_0.mp4



Discussion Notes

SWCC pollinators projects - Mike Christensen mike.christensen@swccnrm.org.au and Wendy Wilkins wendy.wilkins@swccnrm.org.au

- Smart Farms funded E DNA project focusing on avocado producers
- NLP funded project - Managing vegetation of farms targeting pollinators
- Protecting remnant vegetation and undertaking revegetation for pollination as well as biodiversity
- Focusing on orchards and canola producers
- Undertaking fauna surveys (insects, birds and mammals) to provide a baseline
- Use of the International protocols for insect surveys
- Surveys showing a large array of insects and lots of native bees.
- Development of flowering calendars - developed for Blackwood Valley and the Canola Belt but some applicability across the SW.
- Compendium of plants - which pollinators are visiting which plants under development

- Centre in its 4th Small centre, one staff - Liz, dependent on PhD students
- Development of a honeybee flora data base by biogeographical areas.
- 250 plants that honeybees really like.
- Crucial to keep a balance between honeybees and native bees
- 259% increase in beekeepers between 2016 and 2019. Flow hives and hobbyists are increasing
- Concerned about biosecurity for honey producers
- Overall insects are declining - Watch use of pesticides
- Loss of foraging grounds through prescribed burning. We can't have logging and burning
- Keen to work with landcarers to further research.

Bart Lebbing - Retired commercial beekeeper

- Although there is an increase of beekeepers, hobbyist are not producing large amounts of honey.
- Critical to maintain native bee populations.
- Decline of native vegetation and decline in the health of the conservation state is on a fast trajectory.
- Use of pesticides is of concern, especially glyphosate and the impact of neonicotinoids which are banned in most other countries.
- Beekeeping is getting more and more difficult. Don't see a good future.

Other comments

- National pollinator count provided useful data.
- Great research being undertaken to support pollinators.
- Lots of different data and people using different techniques.
- Concern about pollination of rare orchids in conservation areas - points to the need for complexity in remnant vegetation - plant species diversity, fungi, pollinator diversity.
- Need to look at all food sources for pollinators all year round.
- Bees are quite fussy.
- Need to provide continuous flowering to provide food and shelter for all pollinators.
- Surveys are being conducted. Eddy Wajon has found 55 species on his Chingarup property.
- Landcarer groups need best practice for weed control activities and advice for landowners to ensure protection of pollinators. Possible protocols – no spraying on windy days, use the right product for the right problems, being aware of impact of neonicotinoids which can destroy a bees sense of direction, fungicides also have a strong impact on bees. Teele will working info for landholders on how to manage weed control and protect pollinators.