

2026 Regional Learning Exchange

Statewide communities of practice in action

How does coastal & marine stewardship work across different places, organisations and scales — and what makes it possible to work collectively?

The 2026 Regional Learning Exchange brings together stories and insights from across Western Australia, exploring how different communities and organisations are putting stewardship into practice. Together, we'll explore how place, governance, population, funding, and organisational capacity shape what is possible, and how activities and monitoring connect to decisions, outcomes, and the social, economic, environmental, and cultural value created along the way.

The presentations will be followed by roundtable discussions, providing an opportunity to explore the challenges and enabling conditions that shape stewardship in practice and to identify lessons that can travel between regions. These insights will contribute to the Stewardship Practice Playbook — a live, evolving resource that continues to grow through shared learning and practice.

This event is for people across government, community, research, and science, as well as local communities involved in, supporting, or curious about coastal & marine stewardship.

Registration: [Attend in Bunbury](#) | [Join online](#)

WACMN leads this event in partnership with the WA Landcare Network (WALN), with sponsorship from the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage and the WA State NRM Program.

8.30 am - 12.30 pm, 9 October 2026 | Dolphin Discovery Centre, Koombana Drive, Bunbury



Department of Planning,
Lands and Heritage



natural resource
management program



This Regional Learning Exchange builds on the WACMN 2025 Coastal & Marine Forum, exploring how different stewardship approaches work in practice and what we can learn.

The six learning exchange presentations bring together practical examples from around the state and form the first learning stories in the Stewardship Practice Playbook, capturing what different approaches achieve, what sustains them and what others might adapt.

PROGRAM

TIME	SESSION	FOCUS
8.30 am	Registration and arrival	Sign in, tea and coffee
9.00 am	Welcome	Dr Carmen Elrick-Barr, Network Chair
9.10 am	Communities of Practice in Action	Ailbhe Travers, Network Manager Introduction to the learning exchange, the live playbook and the Regional Reference Group
9.20 am	Esperance Tjaltjraak Boodja Park	Place-based restoration through local government. Traditional Owner partnership and staged community engagement
9.40 am	Peron Naturaliste Partnership	Regional collaboration, drone-enabled coastal monitoring and shared decision-ready data
10.00 am	Perth NRM	Metropolitan NRM direct delivery, grant support and the Disaster Ready Fund coastal resilience program
10.20 am	Morning tea	Conversation and connections
10.40 am	NACC NRM	A regional connector and facilitator linking dispersed communities, programs and regional clusters
11.00 am	Care for Hedland	Grassroots stewardship evolving into peer mentoring and community-led science innovation
11.20 am	Environs Kimberley	Meadows of the Bay: a not-for-profit regional coordinator combining partnership building with direct project delivery and long-term citizen science
11.40 am	Facilitated synthesis	What the six stories show about delivery models, backbone roles, evidence and value
11.55 am	Working discussion	Building the live playbook: Shared reflection
12.20 pm	Wrap up and next steps	What WACMN will carry forward and how participants can contribute
12.30 pm	Networking lunch	Stay for lunch and informal exchange

Regional learning exchanges will continue into 2027. The next phase will deepen the understanding of grassroots Friends and Coastcare groups, broaden the range of local-government delivery examples and draw further learning from Coastwest-supported projects. Each exchange will add practical evidence, tools and reflections so the playbook grows with the network's experience.