

# MINUTES OF PHCC GENERAL MEETING

Held on Thursday 14 December 2017  
at Marine Operations Centre  
107 Breakwater Parade, Mandurah Ocean Marina



The Chairman opened the meeting at 9.00am

## 1. Attendance

Present:	Andy Gulliver	Chairman
	Jan Star AM	Deputy Chairman
	Marilyn Gray	Treasurer
	Bob Pond	Executive Committee (DWER))
	Michael Schultz	Community Member
	Cr Caroline Knight	Local Govt Member (Coastal)
	Cr Stephen Lee	Local Govt Member Proxy (Coastal)
	Brett Fitzgerald	DBCA
	Rob Summers	DPIRD
	Andrew Ward	PDC
	Lilia Palermo	Deputising DPLH (Peel) - Observer
In Attendance:	Jane O'Malley	Chief Executive Officer
	Steve Fisher	Acting CEO
	Kim Wilson	Program Manager [from 9.40am]
	Thelma Crook	Program Manager [from 9.40am]
	Jo Garvey	Natural Assets Coordinator [from 9.40am]
	Luke Rogers	Regional Landcare Facilitator [from 9.40am]
	Mel Durack	Hotham-Williams NRM Coordinator [from 9.15am]
	Patricia Sutton	Office Manager (Minutes)
	Jesse Rowley	Admin Support
	Francis Smit	Landcare SJ Inc
	Neil Kentish	Landcare SJ Inc Board Member
Apologies:	Paddi Creevey OAM	Secretary
	Darralyn Ebsary	Community Member
	Howard Mitchell	Community Member
	Leon Brouwer	DWER
	Cr Eliza Dowling	Local Govt Member Proxy (Inland)
	Suzanne Brown	Water Corporation – Observer
	Scott Haine	DPLH (Peel) – Observer
	Kristy Gregory	Landcare SJ Inc

The Chairman reported that the survey about the order of the agenda and provision of papers for PHCC General Meetings was sent to members and reminded them to respond to the survey. He also mentioned the survey which asked members to read, and acknowledge that they had read, the policies and asked that members that haven't yet completed it, do so, to ensure they are aware of current policies, and their responsibilities to abide by them.

The Chairman congratulated Thelma Crook on receiving the John Oldham Award from CCWA.

## 2. Declarations of Interest

Nil

## 3. Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting held on 19 October 2017

Moved: Bob Pond      Seconded: Caroline Knight

**That the Minutes of the meeting held on 19 October 2017 be confirmed as a true and correct record of the meeting.**

CARRIED

## 4. Business Arising from Previous Minutes

Summary of actions from previous meetings:

No.	DETAILS	RESP.	COMPLETE
1.	Item 6 Chairman's Report [15 December 2016] <i>Seek an opportunity for Marilyn Gray to present to the Peel CCI</i> <i>17 Aug 2017: Consider a joint Business After Hours with local businesses such as Dolphin Cruises</i> <i>19 Oct 2017: PHCC is pencilled in to host a Business After Hours at Peel CCI in May 2018</i>	Marilyn Gray	IN PROGRESS Scheduled for May 2018
2.	Item 7 CEOs Report [20 April 2017] <i>Jane to seek a meeting with Minister MacTiernan</i> <i>19 Oct 2017: Jane had a five minute informal meeting with Minister MacTiernan at a function and managed to get some key messages across. She hopes to meet again as a consequence of that discussion.</i>	Jane O'Malley	IN PROGRESS
3.	Item 10 Chairman's Report [17 Aug 2017] <i>Following further discussion at PHCC Executive Committee, a working group be formed to discuss PHCC's contribution to the East Keralup concept plan discussions.</i> <i>19 Oct 2017: Jane advised that a small group is looking at progressing East Keralup concept plan discussions.</i>	Andy Gulliver	Complete

Summary of actions from meeting of 19 October 2017:

No.	DETAILS	RESP.	COMPLETE
1.	Item 6.3 Agency Report – Bob Pond (DWER) [19 Oct 2017] <i>Steve Fisher to monitor the following recommendations in relation to fish kills:</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li><i>In the short term PHCC maintains its current level of engagement with DPIRD, DWER, Recfishwest and the community regarding fish kill communications</i></li><li><i>PHCC (Steve) to keep a watching brief on the preparation of communications materials by DWER and report back progress to the General Meeting in February 2018. At this time we could consider the longer term opportunities.</i></li><li><i>PHCC to consider how / where to include links to fish kill information in the development of the new PHCC website.</i></li><li><i>PHCC hosts a SHARE or similar event regarding the fish kill response protocol and communication strategy. This event would need to be supported by Recfishwest, DPIRD and DWER.</i></li></ol>	Steve Fisher	COMPLETE  (SHARE session scheduled for May 2018)

## 5. Correspondence

Correspondence was posted weekly on the Members' page of the website, with prompt emails to members to advise new correspondence had been uploaded. The correspondence was tabled at the meeting.

*Moved: Marilyn Gray    Seconded: Caroline Knight*

***That Correspondence In and Correspondence Out be accepted.***

CARRIED

## 6. Ratification of Local Government Representatives

Local Government Representatives Cr Caroline Knight and Cr Stephen Lee left the room at 9.07am whilst the nominations for new Local Government Representatives were discussed.

Bob Pond (Independent Panel Chairman) advised that the two Local Government Representative terms expired at this meeting. All sixteen local governments in the Catchment were advised of the expiring terms and were invited to nominate a representative. Five nominations were received by the closing date of 23 November 2017:

1. Cr Eliza Dowling, Shire of Cuballing
2. Cr David Smart, Shire of Boddington
3. Cr Caroline Knight, City of Mandurah
4. Cr Stephen Lee, Shire of Murray
5. Cr Paul Beech, Shire of Harvey

A selection panel consisting of Bob Pond (DWER), Rob Summers (DPIRD) and Damien Bell (President, Mandurah Licensed Fisherman's Association (Community Representative) reviewed and scored the applications. Each member of the panel reviewed the nominations independently but resulted in a unanimous ranking.

The Selection Panel recommended:

1. Cr Eliza Dowling be appointed as the representative for the Inland seat
2. Cr David Smart be appointed as Inland Proxy
3. Cr Caroline Knight be appointed as the representative for the Coastal seat
4. Cr Stephen Lee be appointed as the Coastal Proxy
5. Cr Paul Beech and the Shire of Harvey be informed of the results and thanked for his application.

*Moved: Jan Star                      Seconded Mike Schultz*

***That the following recommendations be endorsed:***

- 1. Cr Eliza Dowling be appointed as the representative for the Inland seat***
- 2. Cr David Smart be appointed as Inland Proxy***
- 3. Cr Caroline Knight be appointed as the representative for the Coastal seat***
- 4. Cr Stephen Lee be appointed as the Coastal Proxy***
- 5. Cr Paul Beech and the Shire of Harvey be informed of the results and thanked for his application.***

CARRIED

Cr Caroline Knight and Cr Stephen Lee returned to the room at 9.11am and the Chairman congratulated them on their respective appointments.

## 7. Agency and Member Updates

### 7.1 Rob Summers – DPIRD

#### **Mineral sands sampling**

- Sampling at the mineral sands site is indicating that the native topsoil replaced onto the site has a P retention similar to a Spearwood sand. A very positive indicator for this site.
- The high P retention of the soil and the P applied as fertiliser and compost has resulted in high levels of P retained in the topsoil.
- The pH was very good, even deep into the soil profile (about 5.8 to 6.5 pH CaCl<sub>2</sub>).
- The mixing of the clay that is separated in the mining, does not appear to be uniform.
- Because the pre-existing sand already has a high P retention capacity, it may be possible to mix the clay with the sand while it is being pumped back to the place it was mined and hence add it to the entire soil profile in an even rate. This was previously considered a problem because the clay would be too dilute and not improve the soil enough, especially where there is up to 8 metres of sand overlying the clay. This information MAY make this less relevant, reducing costs and increasing the evenness of the final soil profile.

#### **Horticultural property sampling**

- The Corio Rd site has had bentonite clay applied at 20 t/ha on half of the property (not a controlled trial).
- Plant response has been very much improved according to the grower even when a small area was tested on more controlled but un-replicated conditions.
- The clay has increased the pH from about 3.5 to about 6.7 even down to a depth of 500 mm.
- The P retention has increased from a PRI of about 1 to up to 9 which is a substantial increase, similar to moving the soil from a Bassendean to a Spearwood sand which has been shown to retain P from horticulture over many years.
- The soil test P (Colwell) has increased from 6 to 41 (perhaps adequate for this soil but they are likely to be targeting >70 ppm).
- Samples of the leachate into a lysimeter have not been able to be taken yet to determine a comparison of the leaching.
- The soak in the middle of the dune system that straddles the property and supplies the water for irrigation was 0.05 mg P/L, the return water from the interception bore field along the southern border was 0.05 mg P/L and the water sampled from the irrigation system at the sprinkler was 0.05 mg P/L.
- Adding only 20 t/ha of bentonite to a horticultural property MAY NOT be enough to overcome the high application levels of P applied and more work needs to be done on this. However, this may provide a long-lasting change to beef grazing soils where the application of P is much lower and there may be long lived reductions in P in runoff. An alternative soil amendment which may not have the same stigma as a recycled material.

#### **Commented on the review of the Ellen Brook WQIP**

- A review of the Ellen Brook WQIP has been commented on by DPIRD.
- A number of actions have been carried out with some also remaining.
- The main comment was that the projects carried out in the area which were not as successful, such as the in-stream filters were overtopped by most of the flow, were not well documented and learnings from these, such as cost effectiveness (\$/kg P retained etc), may not be informing decisions elsewhere.

#### **REI agronomic workshop**

- The workshop will be covering the entire chain involved in soil testing from the sampling to the recommendation.
- The workshop will include industry and independent agronomic consultants as well as government staff.
- Aim is to work together to improve the confidence and credibility of all involved.
- Planning for the workshop about March 2018.

### **Alternative Sulphur source**

- Superphosphate is a good sulphur fertiliser but is very expensive if the soil does not need P and about 70% of paddocks don't need P but many need S.
- Have sourced a relatively cheap pelletised gypsum as an alternative to superphosphate- only a test run of 20 t at this stage.
- If all goes well, some of the sample will be applied on demonstration plots this coming autumn.
- Local demonstration is seen as an important aspect of uptake.

### **Smart Farms- Federal funding**

- Soil testing is only one part of managing nutrients on the farm
- A collaborative project is being developed to extend the soil testing into the pasture assessment and management of grazing aspects of beef and dairy. Consideration is being given to demonstrations on farms and using new technology for measuring plant health and growth as well as assessing the soil through the use of drones or hand held devices.
- Again, local demonstration is seen as an important aspect of uptake.

## **7.2 Brett Fitzgerald – DBCA**

### **• East Keralup Update**

DBCA are finalising an agreement with the Dept of Communities on funding to undertake immediate management works (fencing, fence removal, firebreaks) on land proposed for conservation purposes at East Keralup. Funding for Water Hyacinth control is still to be confirmed so Water Hyacinth control will remain with Dept of Communities until further control / eradication is undertaken.

### **• Staffing**

Megan Sheehan has been offered a three month secondment to the DBCA River and Estuaries Division commencing 18 December. PHCC works will continue to be undertaken by Mandurah based staff in Megan's absence. Paul Tholen has rejoined the Mandurah Office and will be continuing on some of the projects previously undertaken by Megan.

Wanneroo staff are being deployed to Mandurah to assist Mandurah staff with PHCC and other projects over the fire season.

### **• Current PHCC Projects**

Roberts Bay and Austin Bay projects are progressing.

### **• Future PHCC Projects**

Pig control – Eastern side of Peel-Harvey Estuary. DBCA will undertake the control works with \$6,815 support funding from PHCC. Monitoring will not be able to be undertaken due to funding level.

## **7.3 Bob Pond – DWER**

- River health assessments are being done in a few locations. Crews are working at Ravenswood today and tomorrow. The Lower Serpentine and Punrak Drain have been completed
- Regional Estuaries Initiative – there was some media attention regarding clay dosing trails at Punrak. REI staff were happy with the coverage received
- There has been sampling this week at Lake Amarillo. Previous testing revealed some pockets of phosphorous laden water which have since moved on. This week's sampling showed little stratification and a uniformly fresh water column
- There is an unconfirmed Nodularia bloom in Lake Amarillo at the moment which was noted by the sampling program mentioned above
- Peel Integrated Water Initiative – contracts have been signed with the CSIRO and their modelling is progressing. Automatic data loggers have been installed in a number of DWER monitoring bores. Work has started on isotope assessments of some of the bores. In January/February expect some aerial electromagnetic geophysics to be done for mapping groundwater systems.

#### 7.4 Andrew Ward – PDC

- New Deputy Chair, Greg Poland has been appointed to the PDC Board. Andrew Taggart has resigned from the Board
- Plan for the Peel – working with PHCC on the FTE position for a three year term
- East Keralup – this went to the WAPC agenda for a future possibilities plan yesterday, not sure of outcomes yet
- Steve has mentioned in his report, the Alcoa presentation at the PRLF meeting and noted red sand opportunities. Jane and Andrew have talked about opportunities in the future and spoken to Simon Taylor, mainly in relation to the Peel Regional Park
- The Governor is scheduled to visit the Peel region on 20 February. It would be great for PHCC to engage with her on how we pass on the messages from an environmental point of view about the importance of the waterways. Could do a presentation
- Blueprint – This is a State Government project, facilitated by PDC. This is the overarching document for the region until 2050. A two years review is coming up early 2018. Feedback within 2 – 4 weeks on this

Jane noted that it is good that the Blueprint was being looked at every two years. We had input into the Blueprint, but didn't influence the inclusion of Natural Resource Management strategies to the degree required to support the intent of the Blueprint pillars.

Jane advised that the use of red sand as soil amendment was tentatively listed for discussion at the next PHEMC meeting scheduled for 2 February and Alcoa will present at the meeting. Supporting Andrew's comment, from DPC perspective, soil amendment was considered one of the big 4 for water quality.

- Growth plan – This year's budget identified an allocation for the Regional Centres program (there are five regional centres in the State). The issue at moment is execution of DPIRD and the Minister's office are still in discussion on how to roll that program out and in what format. There has been a lot of discussion about Stage One rollout, the significant outcomes, lessons learnt, etc. It is on hold at the moment. There is a strong push from the City of Mandurah and the Shire of Murray to get it activated.

Jane reported that she and Steve Fisher had met with Brett Dunn (PDC) and Department of Communities representatives (John Savell and John Galluccio) on 12 December to further discuss PHCC vision for East Keralup. She advised that the PHCC were getting a better hearing of concepts and has provided wording to John Savell to be considered for incorporation in the next round of Government papers.

#### 7.5 Lilia Palermo – Deputising DPLH (Observer)

Lilia reported that they were experiencing teething problems with the State Government department amalgamations in relation to referral of subdivision applications. She said it would be great if departments had a coordinated approach to referral requests. DPLH seem to be receiving responses on applications from the wrong sections of some departments. She asked agency representatives to be aware of this.

#### 7.6 Suzanne Brown – Water Corporation (Observer)

Suzanne Brown was an apology and no report was received.

#### 7.7 Cr Caroline Knight, City of Mandurah

Caroline reported that she attended an update on the Murdoch dolphin research project and she was surprised to learn that there are 83 resident dolphins in the estuary. Our Estuary dolphins are a separate population to our ocean dolphins.

## 8. Staff Updates: Mel Durack, Hotham Williams NRM Coordinator

Mel gave a presentation (attached to these minutes).

Mel explained that when she Jane (and in 1 instance Steve) presented to each shire in the upper catchment with an aim to show the value of having an NRMO in their local community, and gain their financial and in-kind support to maintain this position. In the presentations they outlined the direct PHCC investment in each of their communities. She advised that a lot of them were pleasantly surprised. It was explained how much PHCC can contribute, what the shortfall will be (~\$40,000) and requested the four local governments look to collectively finding this shortfall to contribute towards the position. The Shire of Boddington is already contributing \$10,000 per year and she thinks it is confirmed they will now contribute \$20,000 per year for five years. The Shire of Williams had some money from an old landcare group that folded (in Narrogin), and that 50% of these funds may be able to be contributed.

Jane said we were clear in what we needed and asked the four local governments to discuss how they may be able to assist amongst themselves. It was suggested that PHCC could provide about \$105,000 per year to enable us to employ an officer/s with a vehicle, leaving a shortfall of \$40,000.

Members noted the achievements, both on-ground and engagement activities, that are being achieved in the upper catchment since the PHCC (Mel with Kate/Avril/Darryln – with support from Thelma, Luke and team) have been working in that area. Thelma reminded Members that Mel only works three days per week and Kate works 12 hours per week. The amount of work done and the momentum gathered is incredible. Andy added that Mel should be confident that she is doing great work.

Mel announced that our negotiations for a partnership program with Boddington Newmont Gold has been successful and the Newmont community involvement committee passed their investment agreement for a \$500,000 investment over the next five years. The Agreement will be signed in December and will enable the PHCC investment for employment (as shown below), against the delivery of agreed outcomes and milestones. There will be a formal announcement and launch in the new year.



### How can we keep NRM in the Hotham-Williams?

Employment Costs	(full time) \$114,600
Supervision & Administration	[20% of Salary] \$15,900
Lease of Vehicle/year	\$7,200
Running costs of vehicle/hr	[inc fuel, service, insurance, general maintenance & depreciation] \$7,800
<b>Total cost</b>	<b>\$145,500</b>

PHCC Contribution	
Employment, Supervision and Administration	\$90,000
Vehicle and running costs	\$15,000
Governance, Supervisor & support including Steering Committee	In-kind
<b>Gap</b>	<b>~ \$40,000</b>



## 9. Science Advisor Update

Steve gave a short presentation (attached to these minutes).

### **Building Research Networks**

#### 1. ARC-Linkage project: *Balancing estuarine and societal health in a changing environment*

*Facilitated a meeting of the research team and Partner Organisation representatives (City of Mandurah, Shire of Murray, and PHCC) on 24 November at PHCC to discuss progress since the previous meeting in April 2017. The research team gave the following presentations:*

- Fiona Valesini (Murdoch University): Project overview*
- Chris Hallett (Murdoch): Fish community diversity and sediment quality investigations*
- Sorcha Cronin-O'Reilly (Murdoch): Investigation of benthic macroinvertebrate communities*
- Oliver Krumholtz (Murdoch): Investigation of macrophyte (submerged aquatic vegetation) communities*
- Matt Hipsey and Peisheng Huang (UWA): Estuary model update*
- Fiona Valesini: Assessing and predicting socio-ecological health of the estuary; Summary of progress of whole of project and next steps.*

*The components investigating the ecological health of the estuary and the coupled hydrological models of the catchment and estuary are on-track and meeting expectations of PHCC. These will provide much of the information required to complete a report card of catchment and estuarine health, one of the deliverables of the PHCC Science Integration project funded mostly by the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD).*

*The social science aspects of assessing socio-ecological health and developing scenarios to predict future impacts on estuarine health are not as advanced. The initial intent was to create scenarios based on the Strategic Assessment of the Perth and Peel Region (SAPPR) and the updated Water Quality Improvement Plan for the Peel-Harvey Estuary (WQIP, delivered by the Regional Estuaries Initiative) but neither of these is likely to be complete before the end of the ARC Linkage project. Fiona Valesini demonstrated an alternative approach that should instead inform the modelling for SAPPR and the WQIP rather than be informed by them.*

#### 2. Program to improve the ecological health of Peel-Harvey waterways to enhance fish habitat.

*Developed a suite of eight project briefs (see Table 1 below) that align with PHCCs NRM Strategy and have tangible outcomes for improvements in fish habitat in the Peel-Harvey estuary and rivers. The briefs were based on discussions with Peel Development Commission (PDC), Recfishwest, WA Fishing Industry Council (WAFIC), Department of Primary Industries and Development (Fisheries), The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and Murdoch University Centre for Fish and Fisheries Research.*

*The projects briefs and estimates of costings for each were presented to a meeting of PDC, Recfishwest, WAFIC and MLFA. on 5 December 2017, who endorsed five projects (highlighted in Table 1 below) for further consideration for funding through a 2017 Election Commitment to improve the Health of the Peel-Harvey Estuary (refer to CEOs report for detail).*

*The Key Enabler project would be led by PHCC and would provide a portion of an FTE for Program Management, stakeholder engagement and delivery of some on-ground works. This project is essential to implementation of the other component projects together with which comprise a program to improve the ecological health of Peel-Harvey waterways to enhance fish habitat*

Next steps are to secure the funding for the projects (\$750K) by working with PDC to complete a Summary Investment Proposal (SIP), to work with the project leads / partners to refine deliverables and costs and to look for opportunities for leverage against this funding.

Irrespective of whether the SIP is successful, this process has extended PHCCs science and research collaboration to include TNC and Recfishwest as well as extending existing collaboration with Murdoch University and Department of Fisheries.

Table 1: Titles of a proposed key enabling project and component projects to improve the ecological health of Peel-Harvey waterways to enhance fish habitat.

No.	Project name	Project lead or partner	Timeframe
Key Enabler	Restoring our Rivers	PHCC	3 years
1	Fish Friendly farms on the three rivers	Recfishwest	3 years
2	Restocking of bream in the Murray River	Murdoch University	2 years
3	Harvey River Restoration – Implementation of Demonstration Reach Project	Harvey River Restoration Taskforce	3 years
4	Measuring Effectiveness of Restoration 1: River Health Assessments in the Murray, Serpentine and Harvey Rivers	PHCC	3 years
5	Measuring Effectiveness of Restoration 2: Assessment of Estuarine Health	Murdoch University	3 years
6	Establishment of Blue Mussels in the Peel-Harvey Estuary	Murdoch University	2 years
7	Bivalves for Clean Canals	Murdoch University	2 years

### 3. Alcoa Foundation: Connecting Corridors and Communities: Restoring the Serpentine River

Assisted Dom Heald, Gillian White and Bronte Grant (DWER) on 13 & 14 December to perform River Health Assessments on two sites in the Serpentine River, namely Lowlands Reserve (see Figure 1) and at the confluence with the Peel Main Drain (See Figure 2). These sites represent reaches of the Serpentine in near pristine and degraded condition respectively. The results, based on the South West Indicator of River Condition (SWIRC) will be used for baseline monitoring and evaluation of the river condition before any restoration works commence. Our aspirational goal is for the ecological health of waterways at our restoration sites to resemble that at Lowlands reserve.

Punrak Drain near the outflow to Lake Amarillo was similarly assessed (see Figure 3) which will provide useful baseline information for the project. It will also be useful when considering the future land uses at East Keralup (see below), in assessing the ecological condition of the drain. Two other River Health Assessment sites on the Murray River will be assessed in December. These will inform the activities in the Murray River as part of the proposed program to improve the ecological health of Peel-Harvey waterways to enhance fish habitat components (see 2 above).



*Figure 1: The Serpentine River at Lowlands*



*Figure 2: The Serpentine River near the confluence of the Peel Main Drain*



*Figure 3: Punrak Drain near the outlet to Lake Amarillo*

*Met with Blair Parsons and Anne Smith (Greening Australia, GA) and Chris Gillies (TNC) on 16 November to: present our proposed works and discuss the other two projects (GA's Three Rivers Initiative and TNC's Revitalising the Peel-Harvey through nature-based solutions project) funded by the Alcoa Foundation to avoid repetition and to take advantage of synergies.*

- Also discussed the Key Enabler project and components 6 & 7 of the program to improve the ecological health of Peel-Harvey waterways to enhance fish habitat (see 2 above) with TNC to ensure it aligned with their proposed feasibility study of establishing shellfish in the Peel-Harvey Estuary as part of their project.*

#### 4. *Peel Bright Minds (Peel Knowledge Council)*

*Peel Bright Minds were successful in their application to Inspiring Australia at Scitech for funding for 2017/18 as a Regional Hub*

- *PHCC, Regional Development Australia (RDA Peel), and PDC are inaugural sponsors who together with Inspiring Australia have contributed \$40,000 cash to launch PBM and support operations until June 2017.*
- *RDA Peel has advertised for a coordinator based at Make Place to manage activities including the launch in January or February 2018, 5 or 6 other STEM-based events and management of the website which is currently under construction.*
- *The structure and governance of PBM is yet to be decided. In the interim, Mayor Rhys Williams is the inaugural ambassador for PBM, supported by a Steering Committee with representatives from education, government organisations and non-government organisations.*

#### 5. *Environment, Community, Health Observatory (ECHO) research program in the Peel-Harvey Catchment*

*Organised a tour of the region for Prof. Pierre Horwitz (ECU) and Prof. Margot Parkes (University of British Columbia, Canada) on 26 October to assist Pierre in participating in a large research program that Margot is leading called Environment, Community, and Health Observatory (ECHO). This program investigates the links between effective natural resource management and the benefits to human health. The intent of the visit was to showcase the landscape and meet with the people of the Peel Region with a longer term goal of adding the Peel Harvey system to their network of catchments participating in the ECHO program. My role was to arrange a series of informal interviews with:*

- *Jan Star (NRM Champion),*
- *Alan (Jack) Neil (Coolup Landholder).*
- *Coral Richards (Peel Preservation Society and various other affiliations)*
- *Harry and Franklin Nannup (Noongar elders)*
- *Steve Fisher, Thelma Crook and Jane O'Malley (PHCC)*
- *City of Mandurah*

*Pierre was grateful for our help and happy with the result. I need to follow up with Pierre for our next steps to collaborate on ECHO.*

#### 6. *Other*

- *Attended the following launch of the WA Marine Science Institute Research and information priorities for estuary management in southwest Western Australia – 2017 Report (DWER, Perth 12 December 2017). Jan Star and I commented on a consultation draft in Nov 2016.*

#### **Advice (Integrating Science into PHCC Projects)**

#### 7. *Robert's Bay Wetland Basic Hydrology Report (Peter Muirden, Kareela WA Oct 2017)*

- *Reviewed the report (9 November) which investigates the likely extent and frequency of inundation of the wetlands by estuarine water before and since the drain to the estuary was constructed in the 1960s. Will meet with Peter and PHCC Staff (on 13 December) to discuss the recommendations and PHCCs role in any actions.*

#### 8. *East Keralup Future Landuses Working Group*

- *Attended a meeting of the working group on 26 October to discuss proposed water and environmental work packages designed to improve the ecological character of East Keralup. Also met with a smaller sub-group on 12 December to further discuss in the context of eco-tourism potential.*

## 9. Regional Estuaries Initiative (REI)

Attended a meeting of the Peel Main Drain Technical Working Group on 15 November and a (PHCC) REI Steering Group meeting on 1 December to help guide the projects.

## 10. Lowlands Advisory and Scientific Committee

Attended a meeting of this committee on 8 November at Lowlands where I:

- presented an overview of our proposed works under the Alcoa Foundation Restoring the Serpentine River project with particular emphasis on Lowlands as a reference site and our proposed monitoring (SWIRC) in collaboration with DWER
- agreed to co-host a science symposium and site visit with Joe Fontaine (Murdoch) and Kate Brown (DBCA) in the first quarter of 2018 to try to attract interest and buy-in to the committee from relevant researchers
- agreed to extract relevant water quality and quantity data and the protocol for maintaining environmental flows at Lowlands from DWER (Renee Rowling).

## 11. Other

Participation in planning for National Landcare Program 2 (NLP 2) funding proposal through the PHCC Ramsar (NLP 2 Outcome (a)) subcommittee and the PHCC Prioritisation subcommittee.

### **Science Communications**

#### 12. Oral Presentations:

Guest speaker to approx. 180 Year 8 students and teachers at Santa Maria College on 8 November as part of their Explore8 program to inspire inquisitive minds. Here I spoke about my passion for watery science. Guest speaker at an excursion to North Dandalup Dam and Dwellingup with approx. 60 students, parents and teachers from Greenfields Primary School on 23 November. Here I spoke about drinking water supplies, the importance of maintaining environmental flows, the ecosystem services delivered by the forest, and the science of forestry and silviculture.

With Sharon Meredith, presented an overview of the ecological character of the Peel-Yalgorup System Ramsar Site (Ramsar 101) to staff from Mandurah and Peel Tourist Organisation (MAPTO) on 28 November. This was similar to the presentation to Mandurah Cruises in August, but tailored to MAPTO's interest in the Ramsar site.

#### 13. Written communications

As per the funding agreement, submitted the Annual progress report to the Department of Regional Development for the 2016/17 Financial Year: Employment of a Senior Scientist to provide science leadership and better integrate science into the management of the Peel-Harvey Catchment to DPIRD on 2 November. Followed up with a meeting with Greg McAuliffe and Martin Clifford on 7 December. In summary, DPIRD are happy with progress and have agreed to pay the final tranche of funding.

## 10. Guest Speaker : Francis Smit, Executive Officer Landcare SJ – International Conference of Landcare Studies, Nagoya, Japan 4-8 November

A copy of Francis' presentation is attached to these minutes. Note that the PHCC contributed \$500 sponsorship towards Francis attending the conference.

*The meeting broke for morning tea at 10.42am and resumed at 11.00am*

## 11. Endorsement of Policies and Terms of Reference - deferred to February 2018 meeting

Andy acknowledged the work undertaken in the review of policies, so far and noted that the team are aspiring to complete the suite of Policies in the New Year.

## 12. Treasurer's Report

Marilyn presented her report:

### **Finance and Audit Committee**

*The Finance and Audit Committee met on 4 December 2017 with the main focus on the **Employment Salary Model**, including reconciliation of the employment budget 2016/2017, with reserves flowing into 2017/2018 to meet the shortfall of employment funding anticipated this current financial year.*

*The Salary Model has had to be 'tweaked' at the commencement of this financial year, and the committee agreed in principle, to include a 20% Core Corporate cost to project officers to ensure that all projects will be contributing to the administration employment costs. This will apply to all new Projects as existing project budgets have already been set.*

*Karen, with the assistance of our volunteer Bart Katarski, has been able to develop an **Employment Budget spreadsheet**, which is fully automated and has the ability to generate a number of reports simply by allocating employment contract information into the Salary Model. This has streamlined the process, eliminated risk of error, and providing another level for setting employment budgets in MYOB.*

*Where applicable, in October, project employment costs were transferred out of project budgets and held in POE (Project Officer Employment) for management of our staff employment costs for the remainder of this financial year.*

*The F&A Committee approved the quote of \$5,050 + GST to carry out the PHCC Organisation Audit for the period ending 30<sup>th</sup> June 2018. This represented an increase of 2% on the previous year.*

*The other main topic discussed was seeking a recommendation from the committee as to how PHCC could develop a Policy and Procedure to assist Steering Committees and staff **when assessing and approving grants to Community Groups, Partners, Landholders and individuals and meeting GST obligations**. Karen and Thelma prepared a set of scenarios to demonstrate how grant applications can be significantly different depending whether the applicant has an ABN and registered for GST or not. From discussions with other Regions, State NRM Office and Local Governments who also provide grant funding, this is a 'grey' area. A working group will be formed at staff level to discuss all concerns, then Thelma and Karen will draft a policy for recommendation.*

### **Other:**

- 1. A Monthly Finance Checklist has been developed to help assist with the management of the finances and to streamline the audit process. All Bank Reconciliation Reports have been sighted and signed by myself as part of the process*
- 2. The PHCC Support budget is tracking 31% as at 30<sup>th</sup> November 2017. As in previous years, the second half of the financial year has greater outgoing expenses, but we anticipate to have a small surplus if the trends remain similar*
- 3. Payroll: Monthly PAYG and Superannuation Guarantee and been lodged and payments sent to Australian Taxation Office and WA Super Clearing House respectively*
- 4. Karen attended a MYOB Workshop in November for professional development.*

### **Project Funding:**

1. 9000 – NLP: Payment 2 for F17/18 for the amount of \$396,300 was received in October. We continue to fund and manage the approved Grants across the 3 NLP projects and are on track to fully expend by 30<sup>th</sup> June 2017. The final payment of \$500,000 is expected in February and this will assist in the final payment of Project deliverables due April/May 2018
2. 5500 – Alcoa Foundation: Connecting Corridors and Communities: Restoring the Serpentine River. Year 1 funds of \$299,000 USD were received on 31 October with the exchange rate at \$1.29 equating to \$387,305. Budgets have been set for Year 1 of the project, however, timeline of delivery is still be determined so the financial year budget to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2018 will change
3. 7100 – Science Advisor: The final Tax Invoice for \$100,000 has been sent to Depart of Primary Industries & Regional Development and waiting sign off on Milestone Reporting
4. 7300 – State NRM Hotham-Williams: Progress payment of \$20,000 received in November
5. 7400 – State NRM Wetlands & Peoples Project: Progress payment of \$20,000 received in November
6. 7500 – State NRM Waroona NRM & Fire Recovery: Progress payment of \$20,000 received in October
7. 7920 – HRRT State NRM Blackberry Project completed on 4 December 2017. Final acquittal will be sent to State NRM within the next 40 days.

### **Bank Statement Balance as at 30 November 2017:**

ANZ Corporate Online Saver Account	\$389,688.61
Westpac Corporate Term Deposit	\$617,329.17
ANZ Project Online Saver Account	\$2,394,825.45
ANZ Project Cheque Account	\$52,897.40
ANZ Project Term Deposit	\$1,500,000.00
ANZ Transaction Account	\$0.10
Petty Cash	\$6.65
Merchandise	\$50.00
ANZ Visa Card	-\$3,044.32
<b>Total Cash at Hand:</b>	<b>\$ 4,951,753.06</b>

PHCC equity as at 30 November 2017 **\$1,144,534.78**

Moved: Rob Summers

Seconded: Mike Schultz

**That the November 2017 Financial Reports and the Treasurer's Report be endorsed as presented.**

CARRIED

### **13. Chief Executive Officer's Report (Refer also Items 13.1 and 13.2)**

Jane O'Malley presented her report, including seeking support for the draft recommendations for the NRM Survey and Shared Services Agreement, as presented below:

### *Community NRM Survey (Refer 13.1 below):*

RECOMMENDATION: That the PHCC:

- Supports the project to conduct a Community NRM Survey: Proposed 2018 Baseline Survey (the Project) over the next six months.
- Awards the contract to Advantage Communications and Marketing Pty Ltd, with a project budget of \$16,501 +GST, using unbudgeted Project Interest.
- Provides delegated authority to the CEO to negotiate minor variations to the contract as required to meet the project objectives.
- That a Sub-Committee be formed to oversee the Project consisting of CEO, Special Projects Officer, & up to 3 nominated representatives of the Board.
- The Terms of Reference of the Sub-Committee shall include:
  - Review of project methodology
  - Input into the questions/questionnaire that will be used to survey community members; and
  - Review of the consultant's draft report;
  - General oversight of the Project.

### *Shared Services Agreement (Refer 13.2 below):*

RECOMMENDATION: That the PHCC:

- Acknowledge and support the intent of a Shared Services Agreement across the following areas:
  - Financial Contribution to NRM WA.
  - Services that allow for the running of NRM WA.
  - Services that partners can exchange with each other.
  - Exchanged intellectual property between partners.
- Delegate to the Executive Group to determine the final details with the intent for it being finalised for the NLPPII tender process

### *Staff Movements and Training*

- Andrew DelMarco has commenced a 12 month contract as Special Projects Officer
- Andrew Duffy has been appointed as our intern to support delivery of the Regional Estuaries Initiative
- Jordon Garbellini has been promoted to our 'Land Conservation Officer', delivering our Land for Wildlife Program (in the Lake Clifton Catchment)
- Jesse Rowley's contract has been extended to 30 June, 2018
- Kim Wilson attended a Kim attended 3 day "Learn to be a tour guide" with Global Gypsies.

### *Strategic Issues*

#### **1. National Landcare Program – Round II – Regional Land Partnerships \$450 million 2018- 2023**

*We have engaged SDF Global to support at 1) screening; 2) content; and 3) compliance stages of the tender. We still don't know when it will open. Team are working hard. We have commenced program logic process and discussions with various proposed partners. All three subcommittees and our Prioritisation Committee have met and our thanks to those Members who have participated so far. Meetings with project partners have commenced and are going well. Thanks to the staff for accepting that leave over the Christmas period may be disrupted to prioritise our Tender process.*

#### **2. Meeting with Senator Louise Pratt (WA Labor Senator):**

*I met with Senator Pratt in Canberra Monday 13 November. Louise has asked the PHCC to provide a short paper on our election asks for the next Canning Federal Election. Melissa Teede is the Labor Candidate for Canning and her campaign will be supported by Sally Talbot. We have a meeting scheduled with Sally in February.*

### **3. East Keralup Future Uses Working Group**

We are continuing to work on the East Keralup Future Use Working Group and appear to be getting a good hearing. We have been asked to provide some information before 20 December to assist with the next Cabinet paper.

### **4. Labor Government Election Commitments**

We are continuing discussions with the PDC about election commitments being:

- a) 1 FTE x 3 years (total \$345 commencing 2017/18). The PDC has submitted the first stage paperwork on this.
- b) Funding under the 'Recreational Fishing for the Future'. Refer Science Advisor Report.

#### *Partnerships / new projects / submitted grant applications*

##### **1. Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) – Peel Integrated Water Initiative**

We are continuing discussions with DWER to help deliver components of the Transform Peel – Peel Integrated Water Initiative. A) Extending the existing voluntary soil testing program funded through the REI B) Working with MZI mineral sands mining operations on improving the nutrient and moisture retention of soils through the post-mining rehabilitation process. We have a tentative site visit scheduled at MZI on 23 November. Members are welcome to join.

##### **2. Maintaining a NRM presence in the upper catchment**

We are continuing to work with the upper catchment councils to seek contributions to fund the salary and overheads for an NRM Officer in partnership with PHCC for five years from July 2018 coinciding with the NLP2 funding round. We are awaiting responses from each. We are also continuing discussions with Newmont towards a proposed five- year partnership for NRM delivery in the upper catchment. Mel will cover this in her report.

State NRM Grants (PHCC ineligible to apply but supported applications) – **State NRM Grants - \$4.393 million for NRM Supporting 150 community projects** - successful grants in the Peel-Harvey:

1. BirdLife Australia Community-based Assessment of Migratory Shorebird Disturbance on the Peel-Harvey Estuary (A17025) \$35,000
2. Dwellingup Primary School Dwellingup Community Nature Trail (A17204) \$5,500
3. Friends of the Reserves - Boddington (Inc.) Regeneration of Camballing Reserve - Phase 3 - \$9,300
4. Lake Clifton-Herron Landcare Group 3R's for Lake Clifton Project Area B Re-Vegetation - \$16,834
5. Landcare SJ Inc. Addressing dieback priority protection areas in Serpentine/Jarrahdale - \$25,000
6. Landcare SJ Inc. Wildlife corridors on public and private land in northern Peel-Harvey (A17108) \$40,925
7. North Yunderup Community Association Inc. North Yunderup Lake Reserve - Revegetation and Weed Management (A17127) \$11,202
8. Peel Harvey Biosecurity Group Professor Pest - Bringing biosecurity to classrooms in the Peel Harvey (A17186) \$24,350
9. Shire of Waroona Landowner Support for Fire Recovery 2018 (A17028) \$55,000
10. Wandering / Hotham Declared Species Group Feral Pig Eradication - Stage 2 (A17032) \$29,750
11. Wandering Lions Club Inc. Wogolin Gully Rehabilitation (A17100) \$8,587
12. Popanyinning Progress Association Eradication of Bridal Creeper, Stage 2 (A17141) \$13,550
13. Shire of Cuballing Yornaning Dam Rehabilitation Project (A17009) \$32,000

### *Other highlights*

- *Attended the National CEO meetings & workshops in Canberra 13-14 November*
- *Peel Main Drain Development Application submitted end of October and approval with conditions expected shortly. Request for quote for construction prepared ready to advertise (aim for next week)*
- *Mayfield projects on target with aim for construction to commence on 3 sites early 2018*
- *Peel Regional Leaders Forum (refer Chairmans report)*
- *Website – Julie is working hard on this for February launch*
- *Feral Pig Contactor has been appointed*
- *Fringing vegetation surveys are nearly complete*
- *Water Towers project progressing*
- *NLP tracking well with activities and budgets, particularly finalization of grants*
- *Hosted 4 visitors from the Research Institute of Environmental Law, Wuhan University, Hubei, China (at request of Alex Gardner of UWA) on 11 December*
- *Attended the launch of the Research and information priorities for estuary management in southwest Western Australia on 12 December (copies available)*
- *We have facilitated meetings with DBCA and Winjan and supported Winjan with an expression of interest for a Ranger Program. Their EOI has been accepted to go to the next stage.*

### *PHCC Events (to December 2017)*

- *14 October Pave the Way Clean Up Day*
- *17 October Governance Training for Landcare Groups etc. (Shed)*
- *26 October Backyard Blitz with John Tonkin College*
- *28 October Back to Pinjarra Day*
- *1 November Launch of Wetlands & People Plan*
- *8 November TAFE Bird Monitoring Excursion*
- *18 November Shorebird Banding Night*
- *28 November Ramsar 101 with MAPTO*

#### *Upcoming:*

- *23-24 January – Shorebird 2020 Workshop*
- *11 February – Shorebird 2020 Count*

### *Operational Issues*

*Occupational Health and Safety - There are no incidences to report*

***Please keep following our Facebook and Twitter accounts for project information, events and more. A huge thank you to the team who are doing a great job.***

Andy asked Jane to explain the logic behind holding the strategic meeting in March instead of February. Jane said this year we are scheduled to look at our two year achievements and we also need to put all our resources into the NLP tender process at the start of the year. Jane suggested holding a general meeting in February, an all-day Strategic meeting in March and then continue with general meetings in April, June, etc.

***All Members were in support of the change to the meetings schedule for 2018.***

*Moved: Mike Schultz*

*Seconded: Bob Pond*

***That the CEO Report be accepted.***

*CARRIED*

### 13.1 Community NRM Survey – refer report attached to Agenda (this item was addressed before Item 13)

Conducting a baseline survey of community attitudes towards natural resource management (NRM) and the natural environment (the Project) is a planned activity of the PHCC's Strategic Directions 2016-2026.

The information gathered from the survey will be used to:

1. Provide a baseline to regularly assess levels of community awareness of PHCC, the Peel-Yalgorup Ramsar Wetlands, environmental issues and levels of community engagement with the natural environment;
2. Guide future community engagement and awareness-raising activities of the PHCC; and
3. Inform future PHCC project design.

Detailed scoping for the Project commenced in November, including the preparation of a draft survey questionnaire. A Request for Quotation process was undertaken in November/December.

*Moved: Marilyn Gray*

*Seconded: Caroline Knight*

***That the PHCC:***

- 1. Supports the project to conduct a Community NRM Survey: Proposed 2018 Baseline Survey (the Project) over the next six months.***
- 2. Awards the contract to Advantage Communications and Marketing Pty Ltd, with a project budget of \$16,501 +GST.***
- 3. Provides delegated authority to the CEO to negotiate minor variations to the contract as required to meet the project objectives.***
- 4. That a Sub-Committee be formed to oversee the Project consisting of the CEO, Special Projects Officer, and up to three nominated representatives of the Board.***
- 5. The Terms of Reference of the Sub-Committee shall include:***
  - a. Review of project methodology***
  - b. Input into the questions/questionnaire that will be used to survey community members; and***
  - c. Review of the consultant's draft report;***
  - d. General oversight of the Project.***

Members queried if only landlines would be contacted during the survey. A lot of people no longer have landlines and only use mobiles. Jane said she would check that with Andrew. They also discussed how the questions would be determined.

Bob Pond, Brett Fitzgerald and Jan Star nominated to be on the sub-committee. Mike Schultz said he would like to review the questions and provide feedback. Caroline Knight also expressed an interest in reviewing the questions.

The Mover, Marilyn Gray, suggested an amendment to Item 4. The Seconder, Caroline Knight, agreed with the amendment:

- 4. That a Sub-Committee be formed to oversee the Project consisting of the CEO, Special Projects Officer, and up to four nominated representatives of the Board.***

***Alternate Recommendation:***

***That the PHCC:***

1. **Supports the project to conduct a Community NRM Survey: Proposed 2018 Baseline Survey (the Project) over the next six months.**
2. **Awards the contract to Advantage Communications and Marketing Pty Ltd, with a project budget of \$16,501 +GST.**
3. **Provides delegated authority to the CEO to negotiate minor variations to the contract as required to meet the project objectives.**
4. **That a Sub-Committee be formed to oversee the Project consisting of the CEO, Special Projects Officer, and the following representatives of the Board:**
  - a. **Jan Star**
  - b. **Bob Pond**
  - c. **Brett Fitzgerald**

**With the questions being provided to Mike Schultz and Caroline Knight for feedback into the Subcommittee.**

5. **The Terms of Reference of the Sub-Committee shall include:**
  - a. **Review of project methodology**
  - b. **Input into the questions/questionnaire that will be used to survey community members; and**
  - c. **Review of the consultant's draft report;**
  - d. **General oversight of the Project.**

CARRIED

### 13.2 Seeking endorsement - Shared Services Agreement (this item was addressed before Item 13)

Jane advised that the quantum's provided in the draft Agreement were indicative and needed further consideration. She was seeking acknowledgement and support of the intent of a Shared Services Agreement and to delegate to the Executive Group to determine the final details with the intent for it being finalised for the NLPPI tender process.

Moved: Caroline Knight

Seconded: Mike Schultz

**That the PHCC:**

1. **Acknowledge and support the intent of a Shared Services Agreement across the following areas:**
  - i. **Financial Contribution to NRM WA.**
  - ii. **Services that allow for the running of NRM WA.**
  - iii. **Services that partners can exchange with each other.**
  - iv. **Exchanged intellectual property between partners.**
2. **Delegate to the Executive Group to determine the final details with the intent for it being finalised for the NLPPI tender process**

CARRIED

## 14. Chairman's Report

Andy Gulliver presented his report.

### Meetings and events attended during Month

- Peel Community Foundation, Peel region student scholarships, , Murdoch University – 23<sup>rd</sup> October
- PDC Board member farewell – 26<sup>th</sup> October
- PHCC Wetlands & People Plan launch – 1<sup>st</sup> November
- SWCC Celebrations, Collie – 16<sup>th</sup> November
- 'Wetland Yarns' unveiling of mural at Greenfields Primary School – 17<sup>th</sup> November
- Fairy Tern Project Launch by City of Mandurah, Breakwater Parade – 17<sup>th</sup> November
- Wing Threads project meeting with 'Wild Melbourne' <http://wildmelbourne.org/> – 21<sup>st</sup> November
- Fremantle Foundation, Dylan Smith <http://www.fremantlefoundation.org.au/> – 21<sup>st</sup> November
- Regional Innovation Summit, Bunbury – 23<sup>rd</sup> November
- SJFFA Book Launch, Millbrook Winery – 23<sup>rd</sup> November
- PHCC Finance & Audit Committee (part of) – 4<sup>th</sup> December
- Mandurah Heritage and Environment Group, AGM and meeting – 4<sup>th</sup> December
- Informal meeting with "Rename the Region" advocacy group – 7<sup>th</sup> December
- Peel Regional Leaders Forum, Pinjarra – 8<sup>th</sup> December
- Make Place Laneway Art Launch and RDA Xmas gathering – 11<sup>th</sup> December
- Community Foundation conversation with PDC and PCDG – 11<sup>th</sup> December

### Meetings with Federal and State politicians

- No formal meetings. Informal conversation with Andrew Hastie at SJFFA event on 23<sup>rd</sup> November

### Peel Regional Leader's Forum

- New elected members from several LGA's attended PRLF meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> December.
- Jane O'Malley took the opportunity to present the work of the PHCC to the meeting and gave a terrific presentation demonstrating the value of the PHCC to LGA's and the local community. Strongly recommend members get a copy of Jane's presentation. Well done Jane.
- Alcoa presented comprehensive review of their business in the region and the proposals to export 2.5M tonnes of unprocessed bauxite per year through Bunbury port
  - PRLF members gave frank and fearless feedback to Alcoa re potential impacts
  - PRLF asked for greater engagement and involvement in strategic mining plan and proposals to protect areas of forest for the long-term benefit of the community that will have to live with the after-effects of mining operations.
  - Point was made that there is only one Jarrah forest in the world, the mining lease covers most of the forest and the community would like to protect parts of it for the future
- Good suggestion from PRLF to lift our sights and consider re-badging PWI as Australian Waterways Institute, WA Waterways Institute, or similar.

### Meetings with Government Agencies

- No formal meetings. Informal approach to DWER to consider past suggestions to work with PHCC and develop transparency in reporting for licensed operations to meet community expectations.

### NRM (WA), WALN & NRM Australia

- Chairman unable to attend WALN AGM.

### Governance

- *Policy register. A thankless task so let's thank Jane and Pat for Herculean effort to complete a review of the majority of our policies by the end of 2017.*
- *The F&A committee and the Finance Manager have made a stunning transformation to the accounting and financial procedures over the past couple of years. This positions us well to have high quality, low risk management of our financial affairs as we grow and continue to support the excellence in governance expected by all level of government and the community.*

### CEO and Staff

- *CEO and staff are preparing to work through holiday period to prepared submission for NLP2. This is critical for our future and we thank them in advance for their efforts.*

### Community

- *Informal conversations with "Rename the Region" group. This group are trying to start a reasoned and logical conversation with various groups in the region about whether the name "Peel" serves the community's needs and best interests. A low key approach to gauge feedback.*
- *Philanthropy and the community. There is an increasing interest in philanthropy and how the community raises funds to look after itself. This fits in with the needs of groups such as PHCC and PCDG to ensure their survival confronted with decreasing government financial support.*
- *Chairman has met with several people/groups and discussed possibilities with Dylan Smith at Fremantle Foundation. <http://www.fremantlefoundation.org.au/> Watch this space.*

### Good News

- *It was a joy to unveil the 'Wetland Yarns' mural at Greenfields Primary School. A great example of the team at PHCC connecting with community.*
- *Public artwork by Emma Blyth launched in the laneway at Make Place on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December. Artwork relates to waterways and fish with great contributions from Mandurah Primary School. Let's hope it's the first of many public art displays connecting people and the environment through art (See August report)*
- *SJFFA book launch attended by over 150 people at Millbrook Winery. Over 80 entries from the SJ Shire alone and the book has promoted interest amongst other producers who want to be part of a growing movement. PHCC has been instrumental in supporting SJFFA. A great result. Another great year comes to an end. We can face the uncertainty of NLP2 with some confidence that we will have a good proposal for government and we have several other funding streams in place*

Andy reported that the group that is wanting to rename the Peel region recently met with the Executive Group. He was impressed with the respectful way they are trying to start the conversation.

Jan reminded people that the PHCC have seriously considered changing our name on a couple of occasions, including when we reviewed and changed our logo in 2016. She suggested that this should be considered again and it is timely to start considering a new name.

*Moved: Jan Star*

*Seconded: Marilyn Gray*

**That the PHCC review the naming of Peel-Harvey Catchment Council at the March 2018 Strategic meeting.**

**CARRIED**

Moved: Caroline Knight

Seconded: Andrew Ward

**That the Chairman's Report be accepted.**

CARRIED

The meeting closed at 11.38am

Chairman: .....

Date: .....

Summary of actions from previous meetings:

No.	DETAILS	RESP.	COMPLETE
1.	<p>Item 6 Chairman's Report [15 December 2016] <i>Seek an opportunity for Marilyn Gray to present to the Peel CCI</i> <i>17 Aug 2017: Consider a joint Business After Hours with local businesses such as Dolphin Cruises</i> <i>19 Oct 2017: Marilyn Gray reported that an opportunity for PHCC to host a Business After Hours at Peel CCI had been pencilled in for May 2018</i></p>	Marilyn Gray	IN PROGRESS
2.	<p>Item 7 CEOs Report [20 April 2017] <i>Jane to seek a meeting with Minister MacTiernan</i> <i>19 Oct 2017: Jane had a five minute informal meeting with Minister MacTiernan at a function last week and managed to get some key messages across. She hopes to meet again as a consequence of that discussion.</i></p>	Jane O'Malley	IN PROGRESS