

## Annual Report 2011 - 2012

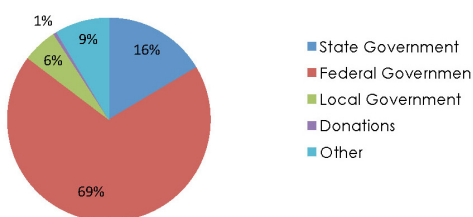
We continue to show that a community organisation can be an effective facilitator and coordinator between different levels of government and industry. Now we have our Strategic Directions 2012-2022, and our Catchment Condition and Priorities report we are even clearer on where we are and where we want to be. Our task is now to bring government along with us.

Despite still having no direct support from the State we have brought \$1.9m into the Peel this year. As part of implementing the Water Quality Improvement Plan for the Department of Water we are making inroads into the long awaited Catchment Plan, working with landholders and agencies. There is also implementation of the Peel-Yalgorup System Ramsar Management Plan (Global Site 482) through continued shorebird monitoring, and protection of the Lake Clifton Thrombolites through catchment management.

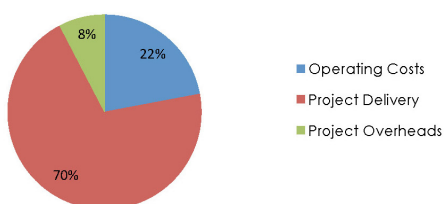
Our partners now also include the Department of Planning, Murdoch University, and Regional Development Australia. We have closer ties to local governments through projects and their invitation for the PHCC to join the Regional Leaders Forum, which has the potential to be a very effective voice for the region. The Peel Development Commission and local governments have been extremely supportive. UWA are working with GreeningWA and the Harvey River Restoration Taskforce on nutrient pathways and Southern Cross University, with Department of Environment and Conservation, are revealing some of the mysteries of the estuary.

So a complex network has developed which befits a very complex system whose problems are not amenable to simple solutions. The breadth of skills on our Board has helped our development and none of our progress would have happened without our very able staff led by Jane – thank you all.

2011-12 Funding - \$1,958,395



2011-12 Expenditure - \$1,315,308



Jan Star, AM



# water quality



## Filtering the Nutrient Storm

Feb 10 - Dec 11

\$1.2 million

State NRM  
(through DoW)

25,000 plants

95 Volunteers  
570 Volunteer hours  
= \$14,250 in-kind

Improving Water Quality. Our project partners include: Departments of Water, Environment and Conservation (DEC) and Food and Agriculture with Lake Mealup Preservation Society, Landcare Serpentine-Jarrahdale, Neil Kentish, Friends of Rivers Peel and Local Governments.

### Key Achievements:

- ▶ **December** - Lake Mealup Diversion Weir complete (as a part of the Lake Mealup Recovery Program. The Weir will increase water flow back into the Lake (restore it's natural function) and improve pH and other water quality measures as well as stop over 1 tonne of phosphorous entering the Peel-Harvey Estuarine System.
- ▶ **July** - Completion of Phosphorus Retention trial with Friends of Rivers Peel and 25 volunteers.
- ▶ **July** - Private landholder Nutrient Retention trial complete, with 80 volunteers, 10,000 plants and the production of the 'surface water management on the farm' booklet.
- ▶ **June** - Banksia Terrace Nutrient Retention Basin completed with Shire of Murray, reducing stormwater pollutants entering the Murray River.
- ▶ **June** - Muddy Creek Vegetated Swale completed with City of Mandurah, reducing stormwater pollutants entering the Estuary.
- ▶ **June** - Greenham Way Nutrient Stripping Basin completed with Town of Kwinana, reducing nutrients entering tributaries of the Peel Main Drain.



## FNS Stage II

Mar 11 - Aug 13

\$1.35 million

Australian  
Government  
Caring for Our  
Country

Improving Water Quality. Our project partners include: Department of Water, Water Corporation, South West Catchment's Council (SWCC), Harvey River Restoration Taskforce, Landcare Serpentine-Jarrahdale, Waroona Landcare Centre and Local Governments.

### Key Achievements:

- ▶ **August** - Agreements signed with the Shire of Murray and the City of Mandurah for selected Stormwater Retrofit projects.
- ▶ **October** - Biofilter assessments complete (stage I) (hydrological and hydrolic analysis).
- ▶ **October** - Biofilter Component assessments completed for the Peel Main Drain and Robert's Bay Swamp projects (stage I) (hydrological analysis and conceptual design).
- ▶ **February** - The Town of Kwinana signs agreement for the Parkfield Lake Stormwater Management Site (\$ 1 million project) to reduce nutrients entering the Peel Main Drain.
- ▶ **February** - Community engagement, including Aboriginal perspective on water quality complete.
- ▶ **June** - Construction of Peel Parade and Olive Road at the City of Mandurah and the rear of Murray Leisure Centre Stormwater Retrofit projects at the Shire of Murray completed.



# conservation & biodiversity



## Lake Clifton Threatened Species

Dec 11 - Jun 13

\$698,839

Australian Government  
Caring for Our Country

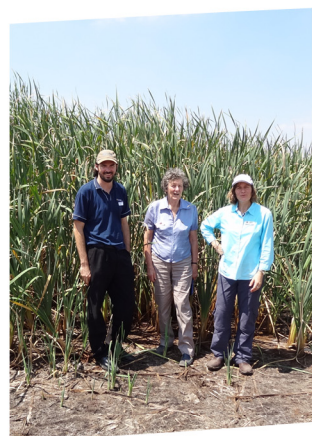
29 Volunteers

515 Volunteer hours  
= \$12,875 in-kind

Reducing threats to Lake Clifton's Endangered Species. Our project partners include: DEC, City of Mandurah, Murdoch University, South West Catchment Council, the Lake Clifton Herron Landcare Group (LCHLG) and Men of the Trees.

Key Achievements:

- **December** – Australian Government funding awarded for the Lake Clifton Recovery Project under the Caring for our Country initiative, \$698,839.
- **January** - Christine Comer joins PHCC after five years managing the Lake Richmond Thrombolites.
- **March** - Ongoing works at Yalgorup National Park commence. Including construction of 41 ash beds for burning in 2013; 2 kilometres of fencing; 14.5 hectares of weed control and ground ripping.
- **April** - Ongoing works along the Lake Clifton buffer commence, in partnership with the LCHLG and local community in preparation for community planting events.
- **April** - In partnership with the City of Mandurah, our first Community Event focuses on the Thrombolites 'Breath of Life' theme of the 2012 Stretch Festival.
- **June** - Ecosystem Restoration at Yalgorup National park including direct seeding of over 9 hectares and planting 14,500 tube stock species to increase diversity and restore habitat to the Tuart forest.



## Peel Ramsar Lakes

Jan 12 - Jun 13

\$300,000

SWCC (CFoC)

1 Volunteer

16 Volunteer hours  
= \$400 in-kind

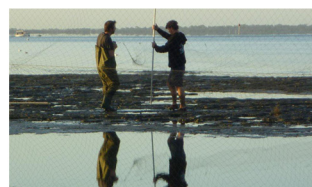
Protecting Ramsar Wetland (Global Site 482). Our project partners include: Department of Environment and Conservation and the Lake Mealup Preservation Society.

Key Achievements:

- **Jan** – Contract is signed to deliver the Project, and Jo Garvey is appointed Project Manager.
- **Jan** – Private landholder agreements signed.
- **April** - Pre-Planting preparation commences, including fencing, ripping and weed control at Lakes Mealup and McLarty DEC Reserves (9.18 hectares), Inlet to Lake Mealup Preservation Society property (0.26 hectares) and private landholder properties (11.26 hectares).
- **May** - Private landholders assisting in restoration activities, installing 1.7km of streamline fencing over 9.3ha, for habitat restoration and stock exclusion from waterways.
- **June** - 54 hectares of Typha is sprayed and crushed at Lakes Mealup and McLarty.
- **June** - 4.08 hectares is revegetated at Lake McLarty with 3352 seedlings bagged and staked.



# education & awareness



## Waterbird Monitoring and Education

Oct 11 - Sept 12

\$85,155

Coastwest (WAPC)

173 Volunteers

1015 Volunteer hours

= \$25,375 in-kind

Monitoring Migratory and Resident waterbirds to build knowledge of our Ramsar Wetlands. Our project partners include: Mandurah Bird Observers Group, Department of Environment and Conservation and the City of Mandurah.

Key Achievements:

- ▶ **Oct** - Coastwest announces success of our application and Thelma Crook joins the team as Project Manager, hosted by the City of Mandurah.
- ▶ **Dec to Mar** - 3 four day Shorebird I.D. Workshops held with 40 participants including Fairbridge Aboriginal and Now Green Jobs Corps Trainees.
- ▶ **Dec** - Draft Shorebird I.D. Handbook completed.
- ▶ **Feb** - We hold Australia's largest National Shorebird 2020 Count with over 67 volunteers and agency staff counting over 39,000 migratory and resident shorebirds.
- ▶ **Feb to June** - Ramsar Management Plan Monitoring Projects are held to monitor Red-necked Stints, Cormorants and Hooded Plovers.
- ▶ **March** - Over 130 students from 5 schools receive shorebird education including using scopes and binoculars, bird identification, habitat requirements, macro-invertebrate i.d.
- ▶ **June** - City of Mandurah, Shire of Murray, Volunteers and the Mandurah Bird Observers Group plan Fairy Tern protection measures.



## Other Highlights

July 1 - Jun 30

Austin Bay Project

35,000 plants

149 Volunteers

634 Volunteer hours

= \$15,850 in-kind

Other key achievements:

- ▶ **July** - PHCC joins the Regional Leaders Forum
- ▶ **Aug** - Increased linkages with Murdoch and UWA including the Peel Waterways Institute
- ▶ **Sept** - Mayfield landholder surveys and community workshops complete
- ▶ **Nov** - City of Mandurah and Lotterywest help secure a future office
- ▶ **Nov** - Chief Scientist Lyn Beazley launches the Ramsar Management Plan
- ▶ **Dec** - 'The Decline and Rescue of an Ecosystem' 22 part series in local media completed
- ▶ **Dec** - Climate Change Adaptation Stage II commences and Jo Ludbrook joins the team
- ▶ **Feb** - Strategic Directions 2012-22 completed, endorsed and published
- ▶ **Feb** - City of Mandurah commits \$450,000 over 5 years to deliver Local Government Stormwater Project; Paddy Strano joins the team, hosted at the Shire of Murray
- ▶ **March** - Launch of new website (thank you SWCC)
- ▶ **May** - Bird Hide at Nairns launched, including handing the asset to the City of Mandurah
- ▶ **May** - Draft Business Plan for PHCC's future completed





## Meet the Team

- ▶ Jane O'Malley, Executive Officer
- ▶ Kim Wilson, Program Manager (part time)
- ▶ Juan Luis Montoya, Water Quality Improvement Plan Project Manager
- ▶ Karen Henderson, Finance Manager (part time)
- ▶ Thelma Crook, Waterbird Project Officer\* (part time)
- ▶ Christine Comer, Lake Clifton Recovery Officer\*
- ▶ Paddy Strano, Stormwater Strategy Officer\*
- ▶ Pat Sutton, Administration Officer\* (part time)
- ▶ Jo Ludbrook, Climate Change Adaptation Officer\* (part time)
- ▶ Amy Ng, Project Support Officer \*(part time)

## Our very important associate partners are:

- ▶ Colleen Archibald—NRM Support Officer, Waroona Landcare Centre
- ▶ Jane Townsend—Rivercare Officer, Harvey River Restoration Trust
- ▶ Andrew DelMarco—Ironbark Environmental
- ▶ Jo Garvey—Landcare SJ\*

\* commenced in 2011/12



## Welcome and Farewell

In 2011-12 we welcomed new members Nuray Veryeri, Jim McNamara and Cr Richard Smith.

We also said farewell to Garry Heady and founding member Tony Hiscock.

## Our Community Members

- ▶ Jan Star, AM, Chair (Founding Member)
- ▶ Andy Gulliver, Deputy Chair
- ▶ Marilyn Gray, Treasurer (Founding Member)\*
- ▶ Dr Peter Hick, Secretary
- ▶ Don Glenister
- ▶ Maxine Whitely
- ▶ Nuray Veryeri
- ▶ Jim McNamara\*
- ▶ Shane Kelliher
- ▶ Denyse Needham

## Our Local Government Members

- ▶ Cr Dennis Veitch (Inland) - Shire of Boddington
- ▶ Cr Richard Smith (Coastal) - Shire of Rockingham

## Our Agency Members

- ▶ Bob Pond, Executive Committee, Department of Water\*
- ▶ Leon Brower, Department of Water
- ▶ Scott Haine, Department of Planning
- ▶ Dr Rob Summers, Department of Food and Agriculture
- ▶ Craig Olejnik, Department of Environment and Conservation
- ▶ David Arkwright, Peel Development Commission

\* Member Finance and Audit Committee



The Peel-Harvey Catchment Council (PHCC) is an incorporated, not-for-profit, community based Natural Resource Management organisation that promotes an integrated approach to catchment management and the way we protect and restore the environment.

## Our Vision for the Peel-Harvey Catchment

The Peel-Harvey catchment is once again a flourishing network of interconnected, productive landscapes, with diverse, healthy and resilient ecosystems, globally and locally recognised, acknowledged and embraced for its environmental significance. It is wisely managed by a community that values it – people working together for a healthy environment.

## Our Mission as the Peel-Harvey Catchment Council

We are key agents for change towards a healthier Peel-Harvey catchment. As environmental stewards we will encourage and enable effective catchment management to create a healthier natural environment in the Peel-Harvey by:

- Building community education and capacity;
- Influencing and leading critical thought and environmental pride; and
- Exemplifying and implementing best practice.

## Our Goals

1. Governing, leading and managing the Peel-Harvey Catchment Council
2. Securing our Future
3. Influencing key decision-makers for better catchment governance
4. Facilitating collaborative adaptive management
5. Delivering quality environmental outcomes



## Thank you to our supporters, particularly:



(08) 9593 5128

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