

Annual Report

2012 - 2013

This was another big year for projects, stormwater retrofits and management, Ramsar lakes, community engagement and much more at Lake Clifton, biofilters, engagement with the Water Corporation for work on a Waste Water Treatment Plant and the Subcatchment Water Quality Implementation Plans. All will deliver quality environmental outcomes. Recognition of our previous accomplishments, with partners of course, came by being finalists with the Lake Mealup project and winners in the 'Community Achievement-Regional' and the 'Rivers, Wetlands and Estuaries' categories of the Western Australian Environment Awards.

Taking advantage of the State election we have managed to influence government towards better catchment management with the Peel Development Commission now tasked to form a collaborative group of key agencies and players. There is also a commitment to give us regional status. We are hopeful this will be achieved soon so we will not be solely dependent on grants.

The establishment of a science position within the PHCC is close, with a commitment of funding from the State. We have an urgent need of this in order to interact more closely with agencies and tertiary institutions to prioritise information gaps, maximise the work of WALIS and produce Report Cards to inform the public. Any serious attempt at adaptive management requires much more monitoring than is currently being undertaken.

December saw the conclusion of our Peel Development Commission/Royalties for Regions funded 'Managing the Peel's Natural Assets' project. This project saw us through a difficult funding period and delivered a range of outcomes including the review of the level of implementation in regard to the WQIP and Peel-Harvey Catchment Council Business Plan 2012-2022.

The Strategic Assessment of Directions 31 (and Beyond) being undertaken by the State and Commonwealth governments has created a dawning recognition of the importance of our Ramsar wetlands. Whilst the Assessment has put demands on our resources, it has highlighted the large gaps in data and, following our review of it, the inadequacy of the current WQIP and the lack of action to address the threats. It has enabled us, with others, to stress the need for a Catchment Plan.

We now have a Business Model and are grateful to the City of Mandurah for complementing it with a commitment of financial support to June 2016. We are also grateful to the City and Lotterywest for our superb new office. Do come and visit!

A positive audit report reflects well on our management both at the officer and Board level and I thank the Council members for their support and effort and all our staff, and especially Jane O'Malley, for their extraordinary commitment and accomplishments.

I would also like to thank all our partners for their collaboration.



Jan Star, AM

water quality



FNS Stage II

Mar 11 - Aug 13

\$1.35 million

Australian
Government
Caring for Our
Country

3,500 plants

4 Volunteers
958 Volunteer Hours
= \$23,950 in-kind

Improving Water Quality. Our project partners include: Department of Water, City of Kwinana, Mike Jenkins, Water Corporation, Department of Food and Agriculture, City of Mandurah and Shire of Murray.

Key Achievements:

- ▶ **July** - 3 stormwater retrofits are completed in priority areas adjacent to the Murray River and Peel-Harvey Estuary in partnership with the Shire of Murray and City of Mandurah.
- ▶ **August** - The Subcatchment Implementation Plan for Nambeelup, Dirk Brook-Punrak and Mayfield subcatchments is completed with 62 detailed recommendations to improve water quality.
- ▶ **December** - Parkfield Nutrient Retention Project is completed in the City of Kwinana, beautifying a smelly 'pond' and removing >100kg of phosphorous a year from the Serpentine River.
- ▶ **June** - 4 more stormwater retrofits are completed, reducing stormwater pollutants entering the Murray River and Peel-Harvey Estuary, in partnership with the Shire of Murray and City of Mandurah.
- ▶ **June** - Jenkins' restoration is completed with 19 ha of wetland restored on private land through construction of an adjustable weir, 2 km fox-proof fence, 3,500 plants. Reductions of approximately 120kg of phosphorus entering the waterways annually are expected from this project.
- ▶ **June** - The contract is signed with Water Corporation to upgrade the Waroona Wastewater Treatment Plant drain, estimated to reduce 500 kg of phosphorus loss annually.



Local Government Stormwater Strategy

Feb 12 - Feb 17

\$450,000

City of Mandurah
Shire of Murray
Shire of Waroona

Improving Water Quality. Our project partners include: City of Mandurah, the Shires of Murray, Waroona, Serpentine-Jarrahdale and Harvey and Department of Water.

Key Achievements:

- ▶ **September** - The Project Stakeholder Group is established with representatives from the Shires of Serpentine-Jarrahdale, Murray, Waroona and Harvey with an agreed objective to progress Local Government Stormwater Strategies to improve water quality.
- ▶ **September** - The Shire of Murray's *Gap Analysis* report is completed.
- ▶ **November** - The Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale's *Gap Analysis* report is completed.
- ▶ **February** - The Shire of Waroona's *Gap Analysis* report is completed and the first 'Flowpath' informational newsletter is produced and distributed.
- ▶ **March** - The Shire of Harvey's *Gap Analysis* report is completed.
- ▶ **June** - The *Stormwater Strategy* for the Shires of Murray and Serpentine-Jarrahdale completed.
- ▶ **June** - The first Stormwater Action workshop is held to collaboratively identify solutions to barriers identified in the *Gap Analysis*.

conservation & biodiversity



Lake Clifton Threatened Species

Dec 11 - Jun 13

\$698,839

Australian Government
Caring for Our Country

158 Volunteers

632 Volunteer Hours
= \$18,960 in-kind

Reducing threats to Lake Clifton's Threatened Species. Our project partners include: DEC, City of Mandurah, Shire of Waroona, Murdoch University, South West Catchments Council (SWCC), the Lake Clifton Herron Landcare Group (LCHLG) and Peel Men of The Trees (MOTT).

Key Achievements:

- ▶ **September** - Lake Clifton Photo Trail opens. >150 photographs received, linked to website & 'One Breath' - a pictorial journey of the public photo monitoring at Lake Clifton is linked to YouTube.
- ▶ **November-May** - 33 Community Engagement events held including Property Planning Workshops.
- ▶ **March - April** - 'Let's Talk' - 4 part seminar series with eminent speakers on the Peel-Yalgorup System.
- ▶ **May** - Lake Clifton Photo Competition received 102 entries with 2,558 votes cast via social media.
- ▶ **May** - 38 ash beds in Yalgorup National Park burnt & seeded -15 DEC officers; 7 fire control vehicles.
- ▶ **May** - 8,900 seedlings planted in the Lake Clifton Buffer and 2,400 in adjacent private properties.
- ▶ **June** - 10,000 seedlings planted in private properties in Lake Clifton.
- ▶ **June** - Tuart Forest Restoration works at YNP completed. 4.9 km of fencing, 28,000 plants, 37.4kg seed.
- ▶ **July-June** - Tuart Forest Restoration monitoring at Yalgorup NP, including >25,000 time-lapse photos. 1,305 people engaged through workshops, volunteering, photographs and presentations.



Peel Ramsar Lakes

Jan 12 - Jun 13

\$300,000

SWCC (CFoC)

99 Volunteers

552 Volunteer Hours
= \$16,560 in-kind

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

Key Achievements:

- ▶ **July** - 4.83 ha of private properties at Lakes Mealup & McLarty revegetated with 4,100 seedlings.
- ▶ **July** - Volunteers help plant 4,800 seedlings across 5 ha of DEC estate at Lake Mealup.
- ▶ **August - September** - Weed control on 1.4ha of private land at Lake Mealup and 2 ha of watsonia control at Herron Point.
- ▶ **October** - 33 community members join the field day and events at Lake Mealup.
- ▶ **May** - Final streamlining project on private land results in 1.3 km of fencing to revegetate and protect 3.2 ha of wetland and waterways.
- ▶ **May** - Monitoring shows excellent seedling survival and growth rates from revegetation efforts.
- ▶ **June** - Case study is submitted to SWCC.

education & awareness



Waterbird Monitoring and Education

Oct 11 - Oct 12

\$85,155

Coastwest (WAPC)

197 Volunteers

1414 Volunteer Hours

= \$42,420 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:

- ▶ **July** - Fairy Tern Working Group develops management options for protection of the EPBC Act and IUCN-listed Fairy Terns. Members include state and local government and community groups.
- ▶ **August** - Ramsar Management Plan projects help to monitor and report on Cormorant numbers.
- ▶ **Sept** - 54 primary school and 25 English as a Second Language TAFE students are involved in shorebird and Ramsar educational activities, including using scopes and binoculars, bird identification, habitat requirements and macro-invertebrate identification.
- ▶ **Sept** - The draft Conservation Action Plan for protection of shorebird habitats is completed.
- ▶ **Oct** - The Shorebird ID Guide for the South West of WA is completed and 4,000 copies printed.
- ▶ **Oct** - The Peel-Yalgorup Coastal Wetlands Waterbird Monitoring and Report Card is completed.
- ▶ **Feb** - For the second year in a row we hold Australia's largest National Shorebird 2020 Count with over 73 volunteers and agency staff identifying 62 species and counting and reporting over 92,000 migratory and resident shorebirds. Alcoa funding was received to support this year's count.



Other Highlights

Jul 1 - Jun 30

On May 20, 2013 we moved into the PHCC's new premises at 58 Sutton Street, Mandurah. Thank you to Lotterywest and the City of Mandurah

Other key achievements:

- ▶ **July** - We join the social media world to better connect to our community.
- ▶ **Aug** - Stage 1 restoration works are complete at Oakley Brook, with support of landowners & SWCC.
- ▶ **Aug** - Ramsar TAG meeting #11 is held with 27 stakeholder groups (TAG meeting #12 held in May 2013).
- ▶ **Sept** - Fee-for-service contracts commence in accordance with our Business Plan.
- ▶ **Oct** - Minister for the Environment, Bill Marmion, launches the Lake Mealup Weir.
- ▶ **Nov** - We win the WA Environment Awards 'Community Achievement—Regional' and 'Rivers, Estuaries and Wetlands' categories for 'Management & Protection of the Peel-Yalgorup Ramsar Site'.
- ▶ **Nov** - Volunteers join staff for the SWCC celebration at Donnelly River.
- ▶ **Nov** - The PHCC join the Strategic Assessment Reference Group for Perth to Peel.
- ▶ **Dec** - Alex Hams conducts HRRT's tour of River Restoration works at McLarty's project site.
- ▶ **Feb** - Lotterywest approve funding application for continued community engagement (Ramsar 482).
- ▶ **Feb** - Our annual strategic planning forum is held, including an 'Effective Boards' workshop.
- ▶ **April** - Our first fleet-vehicle is purchased and 'branded'.
- ▶ **May** - The Australian Government invites us to submit full applications for our 3 expressions of interest for funding through the Caring for Our Country and Biodiversity Funds.



Welcome and Farewell

We had no change in Council membership but said farewell to team members Juan Luis Montoya, Christine Comer and Jo Ludbrook at the completion of their projects.

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)
- ▶ Jo Garvey, Project Support Officer (casual)*

Our very important associate partners are:

- ▶ Colleen Archibald—NRM Support Officer, Waroona Landcare Centre
- ▶ Jane Townsend—Rivercare Officer, Harvey River Restoration Taskforce
- ▶ Andrew Del Marco—Ironbark Environmental

* commenced in 2013



Our Community Members

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

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 Brouwer, 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

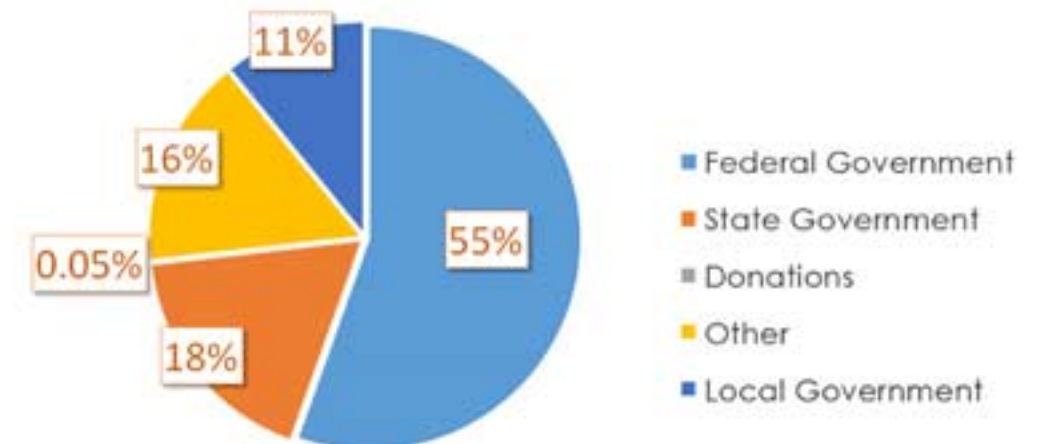
We are key agents for change towards a healthier Peel-Harvey catchment. As environmental stewards we will encourage and enable effective catchment management to create a healthier natural environment in the Peel-Harvey by:

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

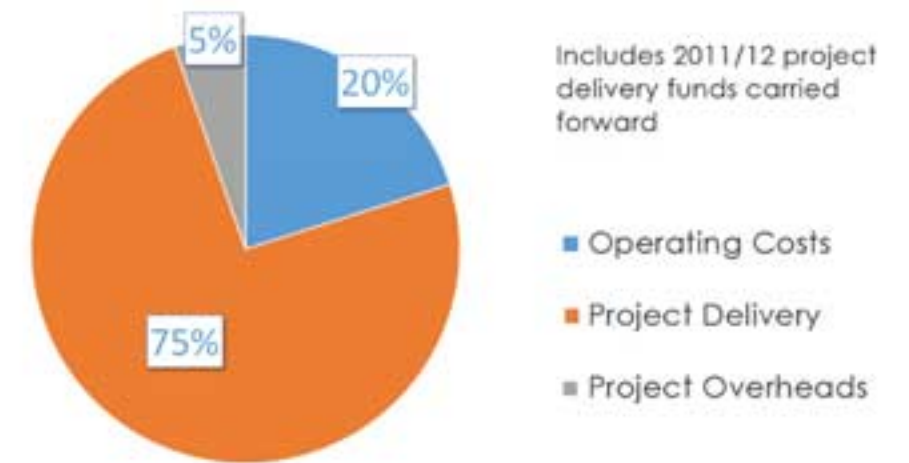
Our Goals

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
6. Engaging and enabling individuals and communities

2012—2013 Funding Received
\$1,650,043



2012—2013 Expenditure
\$2,134,633



Thank you to our supporters, particularly:

