

Peel-Harvey Catchment Council Annual Report 2013-14



It's been a busy year for the Peel-Harvey Catchment Council at our new office in Sutton Street. This year's Annual Report highlights many achievements arising from partnerships with local government, farmers, academics, artists, children and the local community.

After more than a decade of negotiations, December 2013 marked the Australian Government's announcement that Peel-Harvey Catchment would be the nation's 55th NRM Region, from 1 July, 2014. This announcement required the preparation of a draft NRM Strategy by June 30, a feat achieved by our CEO Jane O'Malley, with the help of Andrew DelMarco and the team in a truly monumental effort.

Preparation of our draft "Binjareb Boodja Landscapes" (NRM Strategy) enabled consultation to connect with our community, to hear their concerns and to clarify what they value in the landscape and the support they require.

Award winning photographer David Rennie, has helped us engage new audiences through his exquisite photographs of the Peel-Yalgorup Ramsar System. His Australian Story on the ABC brought the beauty, and terrible state, of the Estuary to many, and raised awareness amongst locals that more action is needed for our waterways.

The State Government also honoured their election commitments to establish a co-ordinating committee for governance of the Peel-Harvey system and formed the Peel-Harvey Estuarine Management Committee (PHEMC). It is heartening to report that there appears to be genuine effort towards collaboration among the state agencies. This effort is underpinned by the government's support for a Senior Scientist to make the most of our collaboration with universities and agencies, and integrate science into catchment management.

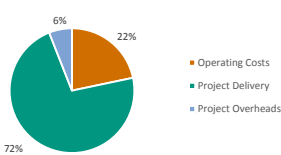
Funding success extended to our Rivers to Ramsar initiative, through the Australian Government's Biodiversity fund. This will assist with landscape connectivity, and also provides capacity to re-engage with the Hotham and Williams areas.

Our thanks to the City of Mandurah, who kindly provided bridging funding to enable us to continue to operate as we transition to regional funding as an independent NRM Region.

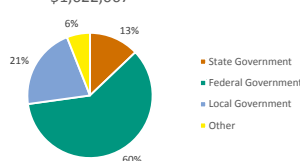
In all, I am very pleased to give you the good news in this Report.

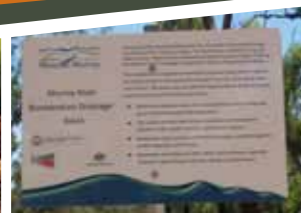

Jan Star AM

Expenditure
\$1,712,848



Funding Received
\$1,622,067





Local Government Stormwater Strategy

Feb 2012 - Feb 2017

\$524,000

City of Mandurah
Shire of Murray
Shire of Waroona
SWCC
Department of Water [Australian Govt]
PHCC

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:

- ▶ **Aug** - Local Government Stormwater Information Portal established on the PHCC website
- ▶ **Oct** - Opportunities for stormwater quality improvements in development presented to Planning Officers
- ▶ **Oct** - Preparations for a Water Quality Improvement Conference commenced
- ▶ **Jan** - Shires of Waroona and Harvey LGSSs completed, with officer endorsement
- ▶ **Feb** - 'Planning' and 'Parks and Engineering' Working Groups established and meetings convened
- ▶ **Feb** - Regional Local Government Stormwater Strategy for the four partner Councils commenced
- ▶ **Apr** - Shire of Murray's Biodiversity Strategy and Water Campaign LAP reviewed as a means to implement their LGSS
- ▶ **May** - Asset register systems investigated as a means to implement LGSSs
- ▶ **Jun** - Future bioretention basin sites identified with first stages of concept designs prepared for selected sites
- ▶ **Jun** - Information, training and awareness opportunities communicated to Local Governments

Rivers 2 Ramsar

Aug 2013 - Jun 2017

\$3.57 million

Department of Environment [Australian Government]

139 Volunteers
1062 Volunteer hours
= \$31,860 in-kind

Retention and restoration of ecological and cultural corridors. Our project partners include Department of Parks and Wildlife, City of Mandurah, Shire of Murray, Shire of Waroona, Harvey River Restoration Taskforce, Birdlife WA, Winjan and Murray District Aboriginal Association.

Key Achievements:

- ▶ **Aug** - Agreements signed and Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Improvement plan submitted
- ▶ **Feb** - Over 60 volunteers take part in the Shorebird 2020 count
- ▶ **Mar** - Literature review for Hotham and Williams NRM Plan commenced
- ▶ **Mar** - Jo Garvey and Mel Durack joined the PHCC team
- ▶ **Apr** - Reporting templates and Partnership Agreements in place
- ▶ **Jun** - 7km of fencing, 31ha weed management, 26ha revegetation commenced
- ▶ **Jun** - 5 community workshops, 73 meetings/consultations with partners, groups and individuals
- ▶ **Jun** - Noongar accredited training course developed, 9 formal engagement and training activities
- ▶ **Jun** - 2 River Action Plans updated (lower Murray and lower Serpentine Rivers)
- ▶ **Jun** - 5 Carnaby Cockatoo workshops, support for Cockatoo counts, 8 nest boxes installed
- ▶ **Jun** - Seedbank established for 2015 planting
- ▶ **Jun** - 2 training events with project partners to establish consistent monitoring

Ramsar 482

Feb 2013 - Feb 2015

\$152,259

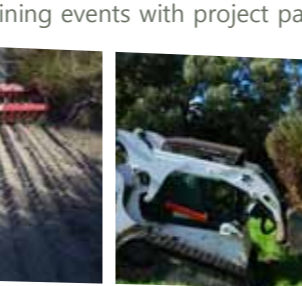
Lotterywest

66 Volunteers
153 Volunteer hours
= \$4,590 in-kind

Improving community awareness of Ramsar values for greater protection. Our project partners are Department of Parks and Wildlife, City of Mandurah and Mandurah Bird Observers Group.

Key Achievements:

- ▶ **Aug** - Delivered educational activities for Kids Teaching Kids State Conference:
 - Noongar Stories on local wetlands presented by Winjan
 - Native bird habitats and food source presented by Birdlife WA
- ▶ **Nov** - Supported the CoM in developing the 2014 Eco-Calendar with a focus on Ramsar 482.
- ▶ **Dec** - Lecture series completed to raise awareness of the Ramsar 482 listed system
 - "Significance of Ramsar" presented by Professor Pierre Horwitz
 - "Values of Citizen Science" presented by Murdoch University, Conservation Council of WA, City of Mandurah and Birdlife WA
 - "An Evening with David Rennie" raising awareness through photography and art
- ▶ **Dec** - Migratory shorebird educational materials drafted
- ▶ **Jan** - Ramsar 482 T-Shirts designed and made available to the community
- ▶ **Mar** - Jan Star, AM represents PHCC on the ABC's "Australian Story" featuring David Rennie



FNS Stage II

Mar 2011 - Jun 2014 (extension)

\$1.35 million

Department of Water [Australian Govt]

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

Key Achievements:

- ▶ **Mar** - Water Treatment Plant Upgrade at the Waroona Wastewater Treatment Plant completed in partnership with the Water Corporation
- ▶ **Apr** - Funding towards the Local Government Stormwater Officer provided to help build Local Government Capacity for water quality projects
- ▶ **May** - Preliminary assessments undertaken on 29 potential biofiltration and stormwater retrofit sites, in collaboration with various Local Governments
- ▶ **Jun** - 3 stormwater retrofits completed in priority areas adjacent to the Peel-Harvey Estuary in partnership with the City of Mandurah
- ▶ **Jun** - UWA "Assessing the effectiveness of hydraulic structures on reducing nutrient outputs from wetlands" research complete with final report showing positive results

Lake Clifton Ramsar Restoration

Dec 2013 - Aug 2014

\$100,000

SWCC [Australian Government]

25 Volunteers
105 Volunteer hours
= \$3,150 in-kind

Reducing threats to Lake Clifton's Threatened Species. Our project partners are Department of Parks and Wildlife and the Lake Clifton Herron Landcare Group.

Key Achievements:

- ▶ **Mar** - priority sites identified and work plans developed in conjunction with Department of Parks and Wildlife and the Lake Clifton Herron Landcare Group
- ▶ **Apr** - weed control and ripping in preparation for planting
- ▶ **Apr** - 2 barriers installed to control illegal access
- ▶ **Apr** - Tree guards from previous plantings tidied up or removed
- ▶ **Jun** - 48.5 ha of Cotton Bush and Apple of Sodom control on the north west section of Lake Clifton
- ▶ **Jun** - 7,372 seedlings planted in 10.5 ha of Yalgorup National Park (infill and new plantings)
- ▶ **Jun** - Brushing carried out on closed tracks
- ▶ **Jun** - Ghania trifida translocated to provide immediate ground cover and habitat for local species
- ▶ **Jun** - The 'Growing Towards Wellness' team join the PHCC to help with Cottonbush control

Other Highlights

- ▶ **Sep** - Monitoring and reporting of 14 stormwater outlets and 8 biofiltration basins
- ▶ **Nov** - Mayfield land manager's BBQ sharing several years of research and field investigations
- ▶ **Nov** - Official Launch of the new PHCC office at 58 Sutton Street
- ▶ **Dec** - Minister for Environment confirms the Peel-Harvey will be an NRM Region at 1 July, 2014
- ▶ **Dec** - PHCC join the WA NRM Regional Leaders Group and attend the Chairs and CEO's meeting
- ▶ **Mar** - Inaugural Peel-Harvey Estuary Management Committee meeting held, with PHCC represented
- ▶ **Mar** - Contract for a Senior Scientist for 4 years signed with the Department of Regional Development
- ▶ **Apr** - "Slowing the Nutrient Flow" field day at Coolup
- ▶ **Apr** - NRM Strategy consultation including a road trip to the Hotham & Williams Catchments
- ▶ **May** - Water quality trial and monitoring with the City of Mandurah at the Samuel Renfrey Reserve
- ▶ **Jun** - Binjareb Boodja Landscapes, our draft NRM Strategy complete and submitted to the Australian Government



Welcome & Farewell

We farewell Cr Dennis Veitch and welcome our new Local Government members Cr Caroline Knight, Cr John Allert and Cr Keith Ellis.

We welcome a number of new team members and acknowledge new roles for some of our existing team.

Meet the Team

- Jane O'Malley, Chief Executive Officer
- Kim Wilson, Program Manager (part time)
- Karen Henderson, Finance Manager (part time)
- Thelma Crook, R2R Project Manager (part time)
- Jo Garvey, R2R Officer
- Paddy Strano, Stormwater Strategy Officer
- Farid Bagheri, Project Support Officer (part time)
- Jamie Wright, Senior Project Officer (part time)*
- Pat Sutton, Office Manager (part time)
- Julie MacMile, Administration Assistant*
- Mel Durack, Hotham-Williams NRM Officer (part time)*
- Michelle Mullarkey - Project Support (casual)*
- Ann Scott (casual)*

** commenced in 2013/14*

Our Very Important Associate Partners:

- Colleen Archibald - NRM Support Officer, Waroona Landcare Centre
- Jane Townsend - Rivercare Officer, Harvey River Restoration Taskforce
- Andrew DelMarco - Ironbark Environmental
- Matt Giraud - Consulting Hydrologist



Our Community Members

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

Our Local Government Members

- Cr Caroline Knight (Coastal) - City of Mandurah
- Cr Keith Ellis (Coastal Proxy) - Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale
- Cr John Allert (Inland) - Shire of Boddington

Our Agency Members

- Bob Pond, Executive Committee, Department of Water*
- Leon Brower, Department of Water
- Dr Rob Summers, Department of Agriculture and Food
- Craig Olejnik, Department of Parks and Wildlife
- David Arkwright, Peel Development Commission
- Chris Malley - Department of Environmental Regulation (observer)
- Scott Haine, Department of Planning (observer)

**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
- 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

