

CHAIRMAN REPORT

General Meeting to be held on 21 February 2019

Welcome to the start of what I believe will be a busy productive year for us at PHCC.

There is a great buzz in the office every time I drop by and I can feel the immense energy from staff as they begin another year of great work that always emanates out of PHCC.

Meetings and Events

Since our last board gathering in December I've attended a number of meetings

- On the 17th of January Jan Star, Jane O'Malley, Steve Fisher, and I met with Dr Tom Hatton Chairman of the EPA. Also present was Robert Harvey the Deputy Chair and Jenny Pope Board Member.

Topics discussed included:

- A brief update on our Peel-Harvey Projects
 - Impacts arising from the proposed additional resources for the EPA Services Division
 - Point Grey Marina and the process the EPA plays in the Commonwealth review of the approval due in June 2019
 - SAPPR.
- On the 23rd of January Jan Star, Jane O'Malley and I met with Eric Lumsden for a general catch up on all things planning, emphasising the need for a totally strategic approach to the protection of the Peel Harvey.
 - On the 4th of February Jan Star, Jane O'Malley, Andrew Del Marco and I met with David Caddy Chairman of the West Australian Planning Commission and David Saunders Assistant Director General, Land Use Planning DoPLH.
 - Discussion topics were similar to those had with the EPA but included the Subregional Structure Plan and the Planning Investigation areas.
 - On the 8th, Jane and I attended the NRMWA meeting. While at times long and challenging I believe we have made some real progress.
 - Collectively we have agreed to a workshop for purpose clarification to allow for structure, priority actions, responsibilities etc to be identified
 - Rob Keogh from NACC was appointed Chair of Chairs
 - Mark Webb from DBCA joined us for discussions
 - Jane presented on RLP WA Investment of approximately \$80 million over the next 5 years, the changes that have occurred with funding reductions resulting in a loss of approximately 60 NRM professionals within Rural Communities
 - Discussions included identifying opportunities, critical gaps, collaborative implementation with the State not competition and funding constraints within the Department.

No meetings with Federal politicians have occurred in the last period however given the imminent election I expect that will change in the next little while.

News

- The PHCC was mentioned in the Summer edition of Bushland News under the Urban Nature Update re our Banksia Woodlands project thanks to Andrew and Jordan and an article titled Noongar Walk and Talk by Megan LeRoy featured a PHCC event. Great to see our name out there so thank you to the staff involved.
- We were called upon by the media to comment on Trail bikes and Feral Cats and Jane gave a great radio interview to ABC Bunbury radio re Feral cats.
- A quick congratulations to Amanda Willmott who has now been appointed as the Ramsar TAG Chairperson, after a wonderful innings by founding Chair Jan Star.
- Other news includes another successful Shorebird 2020 Count. Clean Up peel Waterways occurs across March –loads of fabulous events and activities on the horizon so keep your eyes on the events calendar on the website.
- Pat has kicked 2019 off with the introduction of the PHCC badged hat, a must have item for anyone out and about in the sun! Thanks Pat!

The Year Ahead

The year has kicked off with much interest in Feral Cats and their possible inclusion on the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007* (BAM Act).

There is much happening on-ground and you'll need to have a look at the Program Manager summary reports to try to get across the sheer scale of what we are delivering. A big thank you to the team for all their hard work.

Our Strategic meeting on the 21st of this month promises to be a big day and I'll look forward to catching up with you then.

Caroline Knight
Chairman

We acknowledge the Noongar people as Traditional Custodians of this land and pay our respects to all Elders past and present