

## Staff – Movements, Professional Development and more

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- **Scott Young** commenced in March on a casual contract to support the REI projects (approximately 2 days/fortnight until May and then hopefully 2 days/week pending other work commitments)
- **Megan LeRoy** finished on 1 March to circumnavigate Australia with her family.
- **Jordon Garbellini** – got married 😊

## Projects

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Please refer to the Program Manager reports that provide a summary of project status, highlights etc. The team is doing a fabulous job, you can see the scope and extent of work being achieved. Our thanks to the project team, but also the support team enabling the project delivery.

### 1. National Landcare Program – Core Services

- **Review of NRM Strategy against NLP2 Outcomes** – We plan to commence this process in April (due 19 July, with a further 6 months to update our Strategy)
- Communications, Media and general are all in hand. **E-Newsletter** has commenced and is fabulous (Thanks to Julie for pulling it together; Allison for getting contact list up to date; team for articles)

### Noongar Participation – Thelma Crook

- Review of our **Noongar Participation Plan** (due 19 July), progressing well.
- **Ranger program** - Supported local Noongar communities in drafting a Rangers Program funding application to establish 3 year programs to engage Noongar community members in “on country” employment opportunities (submitted and awaiting response) & Coordinated meeting of key stakeholders to support the Rangers application including state and local government agencies.
- **Procurement** - With support from Peel-Development Commission, we have establish a register of Noongar businesses. As new Noongar businesses are identified and/or established, their names will be added to the list. This register is on file but confidential at this point in time.
  - Noongar businesses have been asked to quote on the delivery of activities through a competitive process.
  - The names of Noongar businesses on the register have been shared with other organisations and individuals.
  - An addition to the PHCC Noongar Participation Plan relating to Noongar Procurement is in draft awaiting approval.
- **Raising knowledge and awareness** At the PHCC Strategic meeting, the Department of Premier and Cabinet presented on the new South West Title Settlement to raise awareness of the Settlement and of the responsibilities under the Agreement. Thelma and Jane had a follow up meeting with DPC on 16 April 2019 to better understand the Settlement and the role NRM organisations can play to support long term sustainable NRM employment opportunities for local Noongar communities.
- The PHCC will work with the DPLH over the next twelve to eighteen months to develop a **joint agreement**, as presented at the February Strategic meeting.
- **Due Diligence** - The PHCC has been working with staff and supporting the community to ensure due diligence and correct protocol under the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972 are followed when undertaking on ground works.

## **2. Regional Estuaries Initiative**

### **Peel Main Drain**

- Treatment swales are complete and fencing has been erected.
- Weir continues to be challenging but working through with a South Australian company engaged to provide design, manufacture and implementation. Draft design anticipated 26<sup>th</sup> April.
- Water Corporation has committed \$25,964 towards adjustments to the designs of culverts to comply with W/Corp modifications to the design.
- Site management plan preparation has commenced (Scott Young with help from Neil)
- Good synergy projects via Alcoa Foundation funding & Greening Farms (refer Program Manager reports)

### **Mayfield**

- 2 weirs constructed; 2 under way (should be complete by end April); 1 historical weir to be rebuilt
- 1 new site identified and progressing initial feasibility
- Looking for additional sites (up to 2 more depending on costs)

## **Strategic Issues (refer also to Chair's report)**

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### **1. Federal Election Campaign**

We are continuing to advocate for election commitments for the Peel-Harvey, as described below.

- \$20 million for healthy waterways infrastructure
- \$4.6 million to establish a 10 year Aboriginal (Noongar) Rangers Program
- \$500,000 for a pilot scale trial to reduce the salinity of Lake Clifton (for Thrombolites)
- \$1,850,000 for Stage 1 of the Peel Waterways Institute

Caroline, Thelma and Rob Keough (NRM WA Chair of Chairs) met with Tony Burke and Melissa Teede again on 16 April. This was a positive meeting and we raised a number of issues (our asks above, the detailed project asks listed in the Chairs report being Stormwater retrofit funding and Stage 1 of the Peel Waterways institute), as well as NRM WA asks being :

- \$450 million for the S.W. Biodiversity Hotspot (tourism, jobs & agricultural productivity); and
- \$680 million for drought resilience (productivity & profitability)

Senator Louise Pratt's office is continuing to advocate and work with and for us which is much appreciated.

Andrew Hastie has advised that he has a copy of our Election Asks (the PRLF document) and we are hoping that we will receive some confirmation of election commitments.

### **2. SAPPR and PHEMC Update – Suspension of SAPPR:**

No updates here

### **3. Point Grey (Refer Chairs report):**

## Other highlights and project updates

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1. **State NRM Grants** are open and we will be holding **workshops to support our community** to apply for funding – Boddington 30 April & Mandurah 1 May. The PHCC will not be applying for funding at this stage as we need to focus on delivering what we are already committed to deliver.
2. We sponsored 2 Indigenous Rangers from the NT to attend the WABSI **Stakeholder Workshop on conserving biodiversity in WA by improving feral cat management outcomes** on 12 & 13 March. Mel Durack and Jane attended (Jane both days and Mel on 2<sup>nd</sup> day). WABSI will use the outcomes of the workshop to develop feral cat research priorities for WA.
3. We are continuing to work with Department of Communities and DBCA re **Feral Pig management** at Keralup.
4. The Mandurah **Water Towers** project is proving challenging with the City of Mandurah considering reducing funding commitment, based on we can only do 2 towers, not 5.
5. **NRM WA CEO's** meeting was held on 28 March – Jane was unable to attend but there has been much action and collaboration so this is positive.
6. Steve, Neil and Jane met with Landcorp representatives about the **Nambeelup Business Park**, particularly the drainage components.
7. We are progressing an **MOU with the Shire of Murray** to confirm a minimum annual contribution towards PHCC delivered projects within the Shire, commencing with maintenance of the Massacre Site.
8. We are working with DWER and Water Corporation re “**Design Guidelines for Drainage Intervention**” and a “**Drainage Management Plan**”. The guidelines and plan are milestone requirements of DWER under the REI Contract. The first meeting will be with Jane, Anya Lam (DWER) and Jason MacKay (Water Corporation), to review previous workshop outcomes, gaps and way forward.
9. We are aspiring to have the new CEO of Water Corporation resign the **drainage agreement** (with DWER, PHCC and Water Corporation).

### 10. PHCC Events – not covered in Project Manager Reports (see events webpage)

### 11. Operational Issues

Occupational Health and Safety - There are no incidences to report

We are having to take out a **restraining order** on a community member who has been causing a nuisance to staff for >3 years. He has ignored written requests to not enter the premises and following a recent visit whereby he provided further reason for concern about the safety of the staff and a denial of all previous requests/arrangements, Jane has commenced proceedings for the order. Court date is set for 29 April.

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.

Jane O'Malley  
**Chief Executive Officer**

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