

CHAIRMAN REPORT

General Meeting to be held on 18 April 2019

Well I'm not sure where the last two months have gone, activity at PHCC has been frantic to say the least with fantastic outcomes. As always the team at PHCC have given 110% as they strive to our shared vision for the Catchment.

Meetings and Events

Since our last board gathering which was our fabulous **Strategic Planning day** in February I've attended a number of meetings. Before we move onto the meetings I just wanted to thank everyone for their time on the day and also give a big shout out to all the staff for bring together such a range of speakers. The generosity of time given by Director Generals and other significant speakers is invaluable as we move forward collaboratively with all stakeholders across our patch. We hit the Mandurah Mail social pages with some great photos of the day, if you want to check the media folder.

On the 18th of March Jane O'Malley, Steve Fisher, Andrew Del Marco, George Walley and I met with Andrew Hall and Fred Chaney. Andrew Hall is the State Manager for Tian An Australia the development company that own **Point Grey**.

The discussion was around our concern that Federal and State conditions for the Point Grey commencement proposal had yet to be met. These issues are significant given that the Shire of Murray is currently considering a Development Application proposal from the proponent.

Over the years there has been considerable community interest/concern with this development and its potential impact on the Peel Harvey. We are meeting with the Shire of Murray on 17 April and Paddi, Jane and Steve will be making a deputation to the Council on 24 April,

The 21st of March was our **SHARE in the Shed** event '**Managing Our Forests- For What?**'

To a packed audience a number of guest speakers presented on topics including logging in the South West, Biosecurity Threats, Economic Irrationality of WA Native Forestry and how much forest do we have left to manage and what is its health. It was a truly thought provoking session on the International Day of the Forest and it certainly left me questioning as to whether we as a society are anywhere near doing right thing for our unique forests in this Biodiversity hot spot. Unfortunately, the following week the State renewed the Regional Forest Agreement. Next SHARE will be on our Banksia Woodlands.

On the 26th of March Jane O'Malley, Paddi Creevey and myself met with the Hon Dr Sally Talbot MLC and Senator Louise Pratt to discuss our **election wish list** which included

- Urban Rivers [Stormwater retrofits & Infrastructure) - \$20 mil
- Indigenous Ranger Program [\$4.6 mil]
- Australian Centre for Water Science, which comprises of two components, Waterways Data Array and the Waterways Research Network. [\$3 mil]
- Protecting the Thrombolites [\$500,000]

On the 27th PHCC supported the **Perth Symphony Orchestra's** event the **Performance of the Planet** – a musical journey that celebrates the beauty of Western Australian landscape as well as achievements in

protecting the environment. The highlight of the evening was approximately 10 minutes of drone footage from PHCC's 'Wetlands and Above' feature film. It was a fabulous evening and really showcased the amazing Peel-Yalgorup System. Special thanks to Sharon Meredith.

On the 28th of March PHCC hosted the Peel Chamber of Commerce & Industry (**CCI**) **Business After Hours** event. Marilyn Gray did an amazing job with her overview of the business of the PHCC and our considerable economic input into the region. It was an event that showcased PHCC to many people who previously were unaware of us and there was very good feedback on the night.

On the 4th of March Jane O'Malley and I met with Caitlyn Rintoul and Kaylee Meerton from the Mandurah Mail to explore ways to increase our **media exposure**. The outcome was positive and we have undertaken to catch up on a regular basis.

Monday the 8th of April saw Jane O'Malley and I attend the **NRM WA meeting** and Strategic Workshop day held in Kings Park.

The workshopping was useful in fleshing out issues that constrain the group and while I think another session will be needed I feel progress was made.

On Friday the 12th Jane O'Malley and I attended the **Peel Regional Leaders Forum** workshop to collectively find a new name for the group and I look forward to seeing the outcome of that workshop. It was followed with a presentation on the draft Peel Regional Trails Strategy. It has been developed to guide future strategic investment in trails for recreation, tourism and event development across the Peel Region.

News

The beginning of April saw the first edition of PHCC's **E-newsletter Wattle and Quoll** and what a fantastic publication it is! Congratulations to Julie MacMile and the team for a truly great job. The newsletter for those of you who haven't had a chance to read it provides comprehensive great snapshot of some of the things PHCC is doing right now. So keep yourself informed and also share it with others or contact Julie for details on how to share with people in your networks.

To date we have 274 subscribers from Australia, USA, New Zealand, the Netherlands and Romania.

We **welcome Mike Griffiths** to the team, Mike is our new Wetland Restoration Officer and also **Scott Young** who is helping with the REI project.

The City of Mandurah has confirmed funding towards the **Water Tower project** so we can anticipate seeing some amazing artwork on a large scale promoting our Ramsar Wetlands in the not too distant future. Thank you to all those involved in getting this project off the ground.

Regards

Caroline Knight
Chairman

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