

# CHAIRMAN REPORT

General Meeting to be held on 20 June 2019

With the election behind us and winter kicking off in earnest, the diversity of activity across our catchment continues to amaze me. From Phascogale Nest Box Installation Workshops in Dryandra, School students breeding Dung Beetles in North Dandalup to S.H.A.R.E in the Shed- Banksia Woodlands our staff are outstanding in the creativity they use to deliver integrated catchment management across our vast patch.

It has been with much sadness that we said goodbye to Mike Schultz who passed away suddenly on the 1st of May. Mike was a huge contributor as a PHCC Board Member. His gentle kindness when providing support, mentoring and sharing of knowledge will be greatly missed. The protection of the natural environment was his passion and we thank him for all that he gave us.

With Mike's passing we need to put some governance matters into place. Firstly, with Darralyn and Eliza's blessing I have agreed to temporarily sit on the Hotham-Williams Steering Committee. This temporary arrangement will enable us to support Mel and her team in any matters that need to be addressed, until the October meeting, where we will, as normal, ask Members to consider representation across all Steering Committees.

With respect to financial arrangements, we need to officially record a notice in respect to Mike's death while he was a member of the Board and provide delegation for Jane, Karen and Marilyn to undertake all necessary steps to remove Mike from all our governance and financial documents and arrangements, including for example the ACNC report, as a signatory to PHCC bank accounts and similar. Therefore, it is with great sadness that I seek your endorsement of the following motion, which was discussed and recommended at the Executive Group meeting held on 14 June, 2019:

**"That the PHCC:**

- formally records the passing of Mike Schultz on May 1, 2019, while he was an active and contributing member of the PHCC Board; and**
- delegates authority to the CEO, Finance Manager and Treasurer, to undertake all necessary steps to remove Mike from all PHCC governance and finance processes and listings and similar."**

In respect to the above motion, I seek your support for the following motion:

**That the PHCC endorse the addition of the following bank signatories to PHCC bank accounts:**

- 1. Caroline Knight (as a back-up/reserve)**
- 2. Amanda Willmott**
- 3. Sue Fyfe**

## Meetings and Events

The last two months have been a little quieter than usual, which I'm sure has something to do with the CEO taking leave...

In the days over Easter staff and board members worked hard on pulling together a deputation to be presented to the Shire of Murray when it considered a Development Application for Point Grey. Paddi Creevey, Jane O'Malley, Steve Fisher and myself attended the council meeting on the 24<sup>th</sup> of April. Paddi and Jane delivered a strong deputation along with other community members who spoke against the proposal.

Shire President David Bolt showed courage and leadership when he moved an alternative recommendation to refuse the DA that was carried 5:1.

Significant concerns around the future dredging maintenance costs, impact on recreational and commercial fishing and the absence of approved management plans were all raised. To date we are not aware whether the proponent has decided to challenge the decision in the SAT. With the CEO for the Shire's support, the PHCC contracted Whitney Consulting to prepare case studies for similar developments, showing the ongoing financial, social and environmental impacts to community. The draft has been received and is being reviewed.

The PRLF meeting on the 24<sup>th</sup> of May saw the renaming of the group to the Peel Alliance. The group seems to be working well collaboratively which I feel in part is an outcome of the recent workshopping the group has undertaken.

On the 30<sup>th</sup> of May at the request of Susanne and Stewart Godden from PPG (Peel Preservation Group) Steve Fisher, Jane O'Malley and I met with the Hon Diane Evers MLC to provide an update on Pt Grey.

On the 5<sup>th</sup> of June, World Environment Day, PHCC hosted EIANZ (Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand) in the shed for a themed presentation around the topic of Clean Air. Air pollution affects people around the world and evidence based work is crucial in tackling the problem. Mike Rowe Director General from DWER gave a fascinating talk about the technology employed by the Department used to measure and monitor air quality and pollution in WA. This was followed by a presentation from our very own Jane O'Malley.

The outcomes of the NRMWA workshop that Jane and I attended on the 8<sup>th</sup> of April was presented to the Chairs and CEOs identifying short and long term priorities for NRMWA. At the workshop it became apparent that a further piece of work was required to ensure that NRMWA position its self as the lead advocate and influencer in the NRM sector.

I met with Rob Keogh, NRMWA Chair of Chairs on 10<sup>th</sup> of June; items discussed included the need to continue with the workshop process, around structure, protocols and processes.

## News

The recent declaration of feral cats as a declared pest in Western Australia is a huge step in conservation efforts to protect vulnerable and threatened native wildlife. PHCC ran the 2018 WA Feral Cat Symposium that was hugely successful, an outcome of which was the formation of a WA Feral Cat Working Group. Representatives from PHCC, WA Biodiversity Science Institute, Bush Heritage and DBCA have worked hard to achieve this fantastic outcome. I think a special mention of Jane and the team's efforts needs to be made, as I'm sure their input and influence made a huge difference.

The Makuru (June-July) edition of Wattle & Quoll is out and makes for great reading tucked up somewhere warm listening to the rain. Great work Julie.

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*