



# Annual Report 2018-2019

PHOTO: Chuditch by John Lawson

The 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



**PHCC**

**Working  
Together**

Peel-Harvey Catchment Council

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





## Message from our Chair

As we move into Kambarang Season we reflect on another huge year for the PHCC, our community and of course our magnificent Catchment.

My first year as Chairman has been a pleasure. With the support and guidance of our Board, CEO, staff and colleagues we continue to kick goals and I am so proud of what we have achieved. Our Board continues to provide strategic direction and overarching governance that has resulted in a 5th year of unqualified audit.

We hit the ground running to successfully deliver the first year of our Regional Landcare Partnership tender with the Australian Government, a huge effort. We have welcomed several new members to the team and are now working out of Mandurah, Waroona and Boddington. Our staff are fabulous and deserve recognition for their professional, tireless work and unrelenting support for our community.

Special thanks need to go to our community. To the hundreds of volunteers who give their time freely to help protect and preserve our Catchment – to you all a huge thank you. To our partners at all levels, thank you, we have been able to expand and diversify our work programs across a larger footprint and plan more strategically over longer delivery timeframes. I am particularly pleased to see work programs in the upper catchment grow from strength to strength, as well as our role in supporting our farming community.

We continue to face the challenge of a changing climate as well as issues such as the proposed Point Grey Channel. We will continue to be a voice for our community and environment and our advocacy will always be based on strong science and evidence because a healthy economy and social prosperity relies on a healthy biodiverse environment.

There are too many highlights to mention! Please enjoy reading the collective achievements of our 2018-19 year.

**Caroline Knight**  
Chairman

## Our Vision

*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 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





## Wetlands and People

\$4.99 million

Jul 2019 - Jun 2023

Aust Government [DoEE]  
National Landcare Program

1114 Volunteers x 4469 Hours  
\$134,070 in-kind

### *A community restoring the Ecological Character of the Peel-Yalgorup Ramsar 482 Wetlands*

#### Goals 3, 4, 5 & 6 Influencing, Facilitating, Delivering, Engaging

**Community Engagement** - *Capturing the hearts and minds of our community through educational, artistic and cultural events to be more involved in the care and protection of the Peel-Yalgorup Ramsar Site*

- 14 community engagement and education events coordinated and delivered involving 1112 participants
- 190 volunteers trained through Citizen Science initiatives, including the Shorebird 2020 Identification Workshop, Dolphin Watch training and Litter Source Reduction Workshops
- 77 volunteers identified 68 species of birds and counted 66,877 shorebirds in the Shorebird 2020 Count
- 7 tonnes of rubbish removed from the estuary, wetland foreshores and reserves by 314 participants through Pave the Way (November) and Clean-Up Peel Waterways Month (March)
- 84 students engaged to learn about our Ramsar Site through education incursions and excursions
- 298 people attended "Performance for our Planet" showcasing a spectacular aerial view of the Peel-Yalgorup System wetlands accompanied by the Perth Symphony Orchestra

**Wetlands Science & Management** - *Facilitating collaborative management and monitoring to enable evidence based management*

- Commenced the review of our Ecological Character Description for the Ramsar 482 System
- Facilitated the 17th Meeting of the Ramsar 482 Technical Advisory Group (26 attendees)
- 5 monitoring regimes established to assess the condition of the Ramsar site
- 4 data sets collected or synthesised to update our Ramsar 482 Report Card and inform monitoring
- 3 fauna surveys conducted
- 10 water quality surveys conducted, including an assessment of Lake Clifton and other Yalgorup Lakes

**On-ground** - *Actions to address threats to the ecological character of the Ramsar Site*

- 140 ha around Ramsar Wetlands were fenced to exclude cats, foxes and other pest animals
- 20 ha of bushland and wetland vegetation were improved by removal of debris (rubbish)
- 8 Landholder Agreements enabling weed control, pest management and environmental management
- 8 community groups, traditional owner groups and landholders consulted to guide on-ground works
- 204 ha of environmental weed control implemented
- 7 ha of former farmland adjacent Lake McLarty prepared for revegetation (weed control, ripping)
- 20 sites identified for weed control, revegetation, feral animal and on-ground works around Lakes Mealup, McLarty, Clifton and Preston







## Noongar Participation

Jul 2019 - Jun 2023

Aust Government [DoEE]  
National Landcare Program

*Developing opportunities for increased and improved consultation, engagement and participation in all aspects of NRM*

### Goals 5 & 6 Delivering, Engaging

- Supported applications for two Noongar Rangers Programs
- Updated our Noongar Participation Plan and facilitated consultation across all projects
- Facilitated presentation by Dept of Premier and Cabinet and Dept Planning Lands and Heritage on the SW Native Title Settlement, Noongar Standard Heritage Agreement and Heritage Partnership Agreement
- Joined Noongar Chamber of Commerce, commenced local Noongar Business Register (with PDC) and commenced facilitation of Noongar procurement opportunities with other agencies and groups
- Followed Protocols and Regulations for works approvals where required e.g. Serpentine Riffle

## Numbat Neighbourhood

\$2.17 million

Jul 2019 - Jun 2023

Aust Government [DoEE]  
National Landcare Program

*Supporting people to protect the vulnerable Noombat wioo (Numbat, Myrmecobius fasciatus) in the wild*

### Goals 5 & 6 Delivering, Engaging

- \$93,737 granted to 9 projects under Community Environmental Grants, with landholder contribution of \$137,433 (223ha protected, 19.7 km fencing, 12 ha weed control and large scale feral animal control)
- Farmers 4 Fauna program continued to support landholders with feral animal control
- 1800 ha of wild rabbit control through RHDV1-K5 virus release. 26 participants across 31 sites
- 97 ha of targeted feral cat management at Shire of Cuballing refuse sites
- Installation of VHS signal detection units and expansion of camera monitoring grids within Dryandra to determine Numbat habitat and extent and support for additional maintenance on feral free enclosures
- 32 landholders attended workshop and training events, including 1080 baiting accreditation
- Red-tailed phascogale nest box construction and base line surveys
- Became a member of the Numbat Recovery Team and commenced partnership to support Perth Zoo's Numbat Captive Breeding Program

## A World for Woodlands

\$1.5 million

Jul 2019 - Jun 2023

Aust Government [DoEE]  
National Landcare Program

*Reducing threats to Banksia Threatened Ecological Communities (TEC) through land stewardship*

### Goals 4, 5 & 6 Facilitating, Delivering, Engaging

- \$ 70,968 granted to 11 on-ground projects, with landholder contributions of \$164,801
- 516 ha protected or managed (360 ha fox control, 50 ha weed control, 15 ha dieback treatment to protect 139 ha of TEC, 22 ha dieback mapping, and 8 access control or habitat augmentation structures
- 3.8 ha revegetation to protect 11 ha Banksia dominated woodland
- Improved TEC mapping across 13,142 ha in partnership with DBCA
- 51 people attended Banksia Woodlands SHARE event in the Shed, with presentations on vegetation, wildlife, fire management and local government initiatives
- 66 people attended 4 additional events, including a cultural awareness event at Binjareb Park







## Greening Farms

\$1.08 million

Jul 2019 - Jun 2023

Aust Government [DoA]  
National Landcare Program

7 Volunteers x 210 Hours  
\$6,300 in-kind

## RALF

Jul 2019 - Jun 2023

Aust Government [DoA]  
National Landcare Program

80 Volunteers x 300 Hours  
\$9,000 in-kind

## Regional Estuaries Initiative

Drainage & Soils  
\$2.72 million

Jun 2016 - Jun 2020

WA Government [DWER]

23 Volunteers x 276 Hours  
\$8,280 in-kind

*Supporting our farmers to manage and use native vegetation, revegetation and fodder plantings to increase farm biodiversity, productivity and improve soil condition*

### Goals 4, 5 & 6 Facilitating, Delivering, Engaging

- \$42,676 of projects funded across 7 farms, attracting \$162,184 in-kind contributions
- 139 ha of on-farm vegetation protected or established, including 128 ha of weed control
- 13 km of fencing to exclude stock from 118 ha of native vegetation
- Supported 2 Regenerative Farming Workshops attended by 117 landowners, May 2019
- 1 Land for Wildlife Assessment completed in the Hotham-Williams Catchment
- Delivered Saltbush Field Day in Hotham-Williams Catchment, attended by 10 farmers

*Supporting our community, especially farmers, to adopt sustainable land management practices through skills development, improved access to programs, farmer extension work and networking*

### Goals 3, 4, 5 & 6 Influencing, Facilitating, Delivering, Engaging

- Recruitment and establishment of the Regional Agriculture Landcare Facilitator (RALF) role
- 7 farmers events, including regenerative agriculture workshops, and on-farm compost trials (5 farms)
- Supported 2 farmer-based community groups (SJFFA and Peel Hub SD) and Peel-Harvey Biosecurity Group, RegenWA, and two government-led production projects (Fertilising the Farm and DWER Smartfarms)
- 139 ha of improved vegetation management through supporting Greening Farms Projects
- 127 farmers and rural community members directly engaged and a further 30 individuals supporting via farming groups, and state and local government farming initiatives

### Goals 3, 4, 5 & 6 Influencing, Facilitating, Delivering, Engaging

*Improving the water quality of our Rivers and Estuary through the construction of drainage management infrastructure at priority sites, providing multiple benefits to landowners*

- Swales for offline water treatment constructed, including access road, security fencing and culverts
- Pumping trial at the swales successful and influencing minor design modifications (pending budget)
- Design of Peel Main Drain weir continues to present challenges. Culvert design submitted awaiting approval
- Site Management Plan commenced, with ownership of Peel Main Drain weir and culverts negotiated
- 4 small weirs constructed on farms (with stopboards yet to go in) and repairs to 1 existing weir structure
- 2 additional small weir sites designed, pending approvals and construction
- Draft monitoring plan for small weirs prepared and Peel Main Drain monitoring program continues

*Supporting better fertiliser management practices, including regular soil testing, to improve farm profitability and deliver environmental outcomes, including improved water quality*

- 23 farmers participated in soil testing, receiving soil testing, Whole Farm Nutrient Mapping, expert agronomic advice service, workshops and individual surveys to assess management practice change
- 20 farmers participated in a Pasture Field Walk to assess a variety of fertiliser applications





## H-W Rivers

\$500,000

Jan 2018 - Dec 2022

Newmont Goldcorp  
Boddington

31 Volunteers x 46.5 Hours  
\$1,395 in-kind

*Supporting NRM officer/s to enable effective Natural Resource Management to improve the health of the Hotham-Williams Rivers and Tributaries*

### Goals 5 & 6 Delivering, Engaging

- Employment support to the delivery of the onground components of the Numbat Neighbourhood, Greening Farms and Tunbridge Gully projects with the Hotham-Williams subcatchment
- 1st Annual progress report submitted and all 2018 deliverables achieved
- Literature review as a supporting document for the River Action Plan
- Commenced actions for future delivery of River Action Plan and River Health Assessments
- Involvement in Newmont's IUCN Biodiversity Review in May 2019
- Active involvement as a member on Newmont's Community Reference Group
- Launch of Partnerships with Newmont and Hotham-Williams Shires
- Case study on the Newmont-PHCC partnership featured in Minerals Council of Australia "Sustainability in Action: Australian Mining and the Sustainable Development Goals" presented at Melbourne workshop

## Tunbridge Gully

\$158,000

Jul 2015 - Jun 2021

South32

131 Volunteers x 629 Hours  
\$18,870 in-kind

*Improve biodiversity and ecological function of Tunbridge Gully, increase cross cultural knowledge, provide education and training opportunities, improve aesthetics and establish a demonstration site*

### Goals 5 & 6 Delivering, Engaging

- 4 planting events with the local community with total of 131 volunteers planting 9,500 seedlings
- Stage 2 and 3 weed control completed
- 2nd year transect and photo monitoring completed
- Active member and representing PHCC on the South32 mine community liaison committee

## Lake Clifton Conservation

\$248,500

2018 - 2022

CoM & SoW

21 Volunteers x 49 Hours  
\$1,470 in-kind

*Improve health and resilience of the natural resources of the Lake Clifton Catchment, including the lake's thrombolites and other threatened species and ecological communities*

### LC Goals 4, 5 & 6 Facilitating, Delivering, Engaging

- 45 landholders participated in the Seedling Giveaway event, 1,960 seedlings distributed
- 3 Land for Wildlife property assessments completed
- Raised awareness in catchment management through distribution of Landcare Matters newsletters (four editions), Yalgorup Bioblitz stall and attracted new participants in Possum Tally Initiative and Birdlife Australia Black Cockatoos project

## Other Highlights

### Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6 Governing, Securing, Influencing, Facilitating, Delivering, Engaging

- 1 SHARE event showcasing Milly Formby's Winged Threads and BirdLife Australia projects
- Advice to SAPPR Review Panel, including tour of the coastal plain catchment by aeroplane
- Secured \$350,839 to investigate and reduce threats of changing hydrology at Lake McLarty
- Represented Australia at the Global East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership (EAAFP) Community Engagement Workshop in Manila, to design a global project to protect Ramsar wetlands
- Launched our new website and E-Newsletter "Wattle & Quoll" and revised our Constitution
- Sponsored the annual Wandering community fox hunt
- State NRM grants for development of a new Land for Wildlife On-Line Registration System







## Connecting Corridors and Communities

\$750,000 USD

Jan 2018 – Dec 2020

Alcoa Foundation

442 Volunteers x 1326 Hours  
\$39,780 in-kind

### *Improving the health, biodiversity and ecosystem services of the Serpentine River*

#### Goals 4, 5 & 6 Facilitating, Delivering, Engaging

- 1 River Action Plan developed to guide restoration activities
- 4 River Health Assessment sites identified to assess baseline condition rivers
- 4 sites monitored to assess current condition of riverine and fringing vegetation
- \$75,000 granted to 14 landholders and 2 community groups attracting \$68,000 in-kind contributions
- 3.1 km fencing and 10,227 seedlings planted by community to manage stock access across 61 ha
- 309 students engaged in the establishment of a collaborative Dung Beetle Breeding program
- 3 workshops to inform Aboriginal Waterways Assessment trial program, RAPs and Noongar participation
- 11 community forums, field days and events conducted to engage landholders and community
- Engagement to improve sightings of dolphins in the River and reduce strandings and mortalities
- Alcoa graduates and volunteers trained by Urbaqua to undertake foreshore condition assessments

### *Improving the health of the Peel-Harvey Estuary by improving fish habitat or abundance in our rivers*

#### Goals 4, 5 & 6 Facilitating, Delivering, Engaging

- Preliminary approvals obtained to release 10,000 juvenile black bream in the Murray River
- Aquaculture facility established at John Tonkin College for production of diet for, and grow out of 5000 juvenile black bream per year, involving 16 students
- Potential sites identified to install instream fish habitat to increase habitat for fish and macroinvertebrates
- > 8,000 seedlings planted by community members over 11 ha in the flood plain of the Harvey River
- 5 River Health Assessments completed on the Harvey River using standardised methodology

### *Providing scientific leadership to inform our scientific, political and local community about the state of the Peel-Harvey Catchment, fostering adaptive management and encouraging greater protection and investment*

#### Goals 3, 4, 5 & 6 Influencing, Facilitating, Delivering, Engaging

- Completed Baseline Ramsar 482 Report Card 2018, summarising condition of our Ramsar Site
- 12 presentations, 2 radio interviews and 3 school excursions delivered to 930 community members, (& > 10,000 radio audience) in Ramsar 101 Master Classes on values, threats and required actions
- 2 magazine articles communicating science initiatives by PHCC and project partners
- 3 large projects initiated or overseen to enhance the condition of the Peel-Harvey waterways (Peel-Harvey Estuary Grants, Restoring the Serpentine River) and the Ramsar Site (Wetlands and People)
- 4 universities, 20 scientists and 6 partners actively engaged in relevant research
- Advocacy for science via active Membership on Steering Group of Peel Bright Minds (Inspiring Australia)
- Provided expert advice to local and state government, industry and community regarding environmental impacts of proposed developments, management arrangements for fisheries in the Peel-Harvey Estuary
- Integrated science into PHCC project planning to monitor project outcomes

## Estuary Grants

\$771,000

Jun 2018 – Sep 2021

WA Government [DPIRD]

136 Volunteers x 680 Hours  
\$20,400 in-kind

## Science Integration

\$440,000+

Oct 2014 – Jul 2019

WA Government [DPIRD]

City of Mandurah  
PHCC



PHOTO: Steve Anderson

# 18 Members

## Community

Jan Star AM Deputy Chair  
Marilyn Gray\* Treasurer  
Paddi Creevey Secretary  
Andy Gulliver Chairman  
Howard Mitchell\*  
Darralyn Ebsary  
Michael Schultz  
Sue Fyfe  
Amanda Willmott

## Local Government

Eliza Dowling  
Caroline Knight\* Chair  
Stephen Lee (Proxy)

## Agency

Bob Pond Exec Comm. DWER  
Dr Rob Summers DPIRD  
Mark Cugley DBCA  
Andrew Ward PDC  
Scott Haine DPLH (observer)  
Suzanne Brown WC (observer)

\*Member Finance & Audit Comm.



# 24 Staff

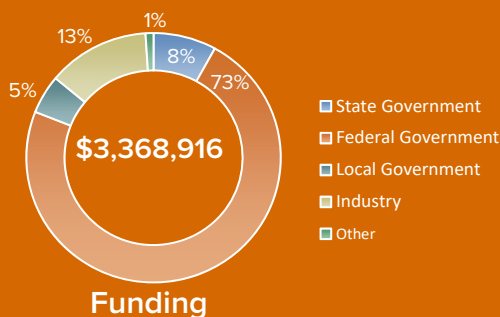
Jane O'Malley Chief Executive Officer  
Kate Barr Project Support (Hotham-Williams)  
Thelma Crook Co-ord Noongar Participation  
Andrew Del Marco Prog Mgr Land Conservation  
Neil Dixon Co-ord REI Drainage  
Mel Durack Prog Mgr Hotham-Williams  
Jessie Fenelon Project Support  
Steve Fisher Prog Mgr Science & Waterways  
Jo Garvey Co-ord Healthy Rivers Co-ordinator  
Jordon Garbellini Land Conservation Officer  
Mike Griffiths Wetlands Restoration Officer  
Karen Henderson Mgr Finance & Payroll

Rick James Co-ord Wetlands Science & Mgmt  
Megan LeRoy Fire Recovery Officer  
Julie MacMile Co-ord Graphics & Comms  
Sharon Meredith Co-ord Wetlands & People  
Michelle Mullarkey Field Officer (REI)  
Allison Owens Administration Officer  
Helen Parsons Project Support (H-W)  
Paula Pownall RALF  
Jesse Rowley Rivercare Officer  
Pat Sutton Mgr Corporate Services  
Christine Townsend Project Support (H-W)  
Kim Wilson Special Projects Officer

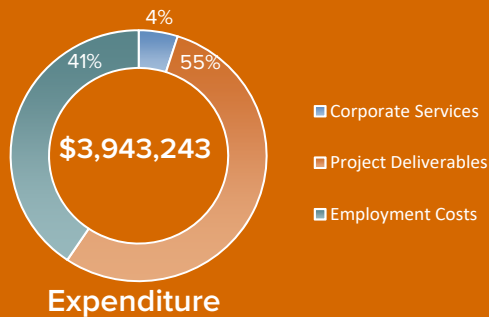
# 2460 volunteers

A big thank you to our regular team of volunteers. Particular thanks to Bart Katarski.

## Financials



Funding



Expenditure

"There are few audits undertaken by us which result in minimal or no recommendations which is a credit to the commitment and preparedness of the PHCC team in achieving such an audit result....we are pleased to report our audit procedures indicated financial records have been maintained to high standards throughout the audit period"

~AMD Accountants~

# 54 Partners

## Associate | Investment | Delivery

Australian Government  
Alcoa Foundation  
Birdlife WA (Peel Branch)  
David Rennie  
Dept of Agriculture (DoA)  
Dept of Environment & Energy (DoEE)  
Dept of Primary Industries & Regional Development (DPIRD)  
Dept of Water & Environmental Regulation (DWER)  
Dept of Biodiversity, Conservation & Attractions (DBCA)  
Dept of Planning, Lands & Heritage  
Dept of Premier and Cabinet  
Friends of Reserves Boddington (Inc.)  
Friends of Rivers Peel  
Friends of Lake McLarty  
Greening Australia  
Harvey River Restoration Taskforce  
Lake Clifton-Herron Landcare Group  
Lake Mealup Preservation Society  
Landcare SJ  
Murdoch University - Fish & Fisheries Research  
Murdoch University - Sustainable Aquatic Ecosystems  
Murray Districts Aboriginal Association  
Newmont Goldcorp Boddington  
NRM WA  
Numbat Recovery Team  
Peel Development Commission  
Peel-Harvey Biosecurity Group  
Project Numbat  
Regional Development Australia (Peel)  
Serpentine-Jarrahdale Food and Farm Alliance  
South 32  
The Nature Conservancy  
University of WA  
WA Landcare Network  
WA Local Government Association  
Waroona Landcare  
Water Corporation  
Wing Threads  
Winjan Aboriginal Corporation

## including 16 Local Governments

Shire of Boddington  
City of Cockburn  
Shire of Collie  
Shire of Cuballing  
Shire of Harvey  
City of Kwinana  
City of Mandurah (CoM)  
Shire of Murray  
Shire of Narrogin  
Shire of Pingelly  
City of Rockingham  
Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale  
Shire of Wandering  
Shire of Waroona (SoW)  
Shire of Wickepin  
Shire of Williams

Special thanks to:  
Colleen Archibald  
Matt Giraudo

