

CHAIRMAN REPORT

General Meeting to be held in April 2020

Welcome to Djeran, the season of adulthood. This is the time of cooler nights and lighter winds, an indicator that a change of season is upon us.

Banksias begin to flower, providing much needed nectar to many small mammals and birds.

I'd like to thank everyone for their understanding as we conduct this meeting via email a week later. It has been a huge adjustment managing the reality of working in a COVID-19 world.

I would very much like to thank and acknowledge the incredible job our amazing CEO Jane has done in managing staff, their work environment and the many challenges and complexities that have arisen over the last month. Her dedication and compassion for staff in this rapidly changing environment has been outstanding. I'd also like to acknowledge the staff and their good-natured approach to all the changes. We the Peel Harvey Catchment Council are incredibly fortunate to have such fabulous staff.

Meetings and Events

It's been a busy period on top of the COVID-19 adjustments.

On Wednesday 26th of February the PHCC team spent a fabulous day at Landcare SJ with other volunteers building over 100 cockatubes for fire affected regions interstate. The day was a huge success and Landcare SJ is to be congratulated for organising the event.

On the 28th of February, Jane and I met with Minister Templeman and Robyn Clarke for our quarterly meeting focusing mainly on the ARC Linkage Findings.

On the 5th of March Jane and I met with Dr Tom Hatton, topic discussed included ARC Linkage results-implications and actions, Environmental Water Provisions, Review of the EP Act, WA Feral Cat Working Group, protection of Jarrah Forest, FESA re clearing of vegetation in respect to fire hazard mitigation.

On the 13th of March I attended a meeting with Jane O'Malley, Steve Fisher, David Bolt and Rod Peak regarding Pt Grey. The discussion focussed on the Pt Grey Estuary Impact Assessment proposal.

On the 17th PHCC held its S.H.A.R.E Numbats in the Neighbourhood in Dryandra. Community turn out for this event was fantastic, I believe the attendance was over 70 so a big congratulation to all those involved. Sadly I was unable to attend but I believe Jane will provide an update on our special guests who took time out of their busy schedules to join us.

On the 18th Jane and I met with Mark Newman and Rhys Williams seeking support for the Point Grey Funding for the Estuary Impact Assessment proposal with a successful outcome.

On the 20th Jane and I attended a meeting at PDC facilitated by PDC Chair Paddi Creevey with the WAPC Chairman Dave Caddy. Others present were Gail McGowan, David Bolt, Dean Unsworth, Rod Peak, Andrew Ward and Justin Breeze. This was a particularly useful meeting and I'd like to thank both Paddi and Andrew.

On the 25th Jane and I met with Andrew Ward and Minister Templeman. There was a clear acknowledgement that PHCC could play a strong role in the COVID-19 recovery phase with ready to go proposals addressing the health and wellbeing of our waterways.

Following on from this meeting and as a follow up to the Regional Cabinet meeting at the end of last year Jane and I met with Minister Kelly to discuss the ARC Linkage Research Findings and a Collaborative Management Framework for the Peel-Harvey.

Again it was discussed that the government would be looking towards “shovel ready” deliverables post COVID-19 that involves employment opportunities.

News

The WA Feral Cat Working Group was launched on the 6th of April and will be lead by former West Australian Governor, Hon Kerry Sanderson AC CVO. The group will drive a unified approach to the control of feral cats across the State. It's well recognised that cats are the single biggest treat to our native animals, killing more than 2.2 billion birds, reptiles and mammals across the country each year and have contributed to 27 animal extinctions.

The formation of a working group was identified as a priority following the 2018 WA Feral Cat Symposium run by PHCC.

Congratulations to Jane who has invested a huge effort into getting this off the ground.

Other exciting news is the Shire of Murray's Council resolution of the 26th March which in essence:

1. Initiates a Scheme amendment aimed at making a marina a use that is not permitted under the Point Grey zoning;
2. Requests the WAPC to revoke the current Point Grey structure plan that shows a marina and marina village precinct;
3. Requests the landowner commence investigations, in consultation with the Shire and other stakeholders, on a new vision for Point Grey;
4. Contributes funding toward the Estuary Impact Assessment.

This is a courageous move by the Shire and I applaud their determination. Our community has repeatedly shown their support for efforts to protect Pt Grey and with the release of the ARC Linkage Research it is now even more of an imperative.

Stay well.
Warm 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