

PHCC BOARD MEETING – 18 JUNE 2020

DBCA UPDATE

- In April 2020 bulk earth works were undertaken at Lot 68 Mills Road, Birchmont to begin creating a living stream through which water flowing into Lake McClarty can be diverted. This 7.2ha property was purchased by DBCA in 2019 for the purpose of reducing nutrients and improving water quality entering Lake McLarty Nature Reserve. Weed control and site preparation has been undertaken with funding and the support of the PHCC. Revegetation of the living stream is set to begin in July 2020 with funding and support of the PHCC.
- Works to manage access and dieback at Kooljerrenup Nature Reserve and Lot 252 Birchmont were undertaken in March and April 2020 with the support of the Shire of Murray. This includes the installation of gates, fencing and limestone on certain sections of existing tracks.
- DBCA has engaged a contractor to undertake feral pig control at Keralup, on behalf of the Department of Communities. The contractor is working with adjacent landowners, that are also controlling feral pigs on their properties. Cameras were deployed in late May and traps will be deployed during the week beginning 14 June 2020. The Peel Harvey Biosecurity Group have also been informed of this work.
- The Recreational Master Plan for Yalgorup National Park has been largely completed with funding from the City of Mandurah. Although a considerable amount of consultation was undertaken with key stakeholders, including PHCC staff, during the preparation of the Master Plan, there will be an additional public comment period in the coming months. This will help to inform how the recommendations in the Master Plan will be implemented by the DBCA and local governments.
- Lake McLarty has been dry since end of January 2020, which until it dried provided some lovely wader habitat. Thankfully as Lake McLarty dried the water in Lake Mealup nearby was just starting to provide habitat for migratory waders take resident. The two Lakes combined have provided freshwater wader habitat from January to June. Although the water levels are not as high as historical water levels its certainly better than more recent years. As Lake McLarty still had some water in January the vegetation that was encroaching onto the mud flats has been greatly reduced and the cracks in the sediments have been minor and therefore not exposing the deeper ASS in the sediment profiles. Hopefully both Lakes will receive plenty of fresh water throughout the coming winter.
- In June 2020, DBCA signed an agreement with the PHCC under its Banksia Woodland Public Partnership Program to receive 21,825 (ex GST) this will enable the supply and installation of 2.85km of fencing at Treasure Block to protect areas of Banksia Woodland.
- Several other projects that enabled the DBCA to receive funding under the Banksia Woodland Public Partnership Program have recently been successfully completed and acquitted.
- DBCA appreciates this funding and support. As a Board member and member of the Waterways Sub Committee, I will continue to ensure that I am excluded from any assessment or decision-making process that could directly or indirectly influence the DBCA receiving funding from the PHCC as was the case with this grant funding, consistent with a Conflict of Interest declaration previously registered with the PHCC.