

CHAIRMAN REPORT

General Meeting to be held on 22 October 2020

Welcome to Kambarang, a transformational time of year. Wildflowers are abundant along with fledglings. The Mooja or Australian Christmas Tree will begin to flower soon signalling the arrival of warm weather.

Meetings and Events

On the 17th of September PHCC (Jane O'Malley, Steve Fisher and myself) attended a meeting with the EPA Board where Dr Fiona Valesini and Assoc/Prof Matt Hipsey presented the ARC Linkage results. The presentation was very well received by the board and sparked a lot of interest from the Chair Tom Hatton and other Board members. Discussion revolved around the science and how the findings should be factored into policy to prevent the estuary suffering from "a thousand cuts".

This type of advocacy by PHCC is so incredibly important and was certainly my highlight of the past two months.

I attended the opening of the delightful new Dwellingup Trails and Visitor Centre on the 10th of September. Congratulations to the Shire of Murray, this facility will enhance the wonderful eco-tourism experiences that Dwellingup is becoming so popular for. It's fabulous to see ecologically sustainable tourism with a primary focus on experiencing natural areas in our patch.

Election asks has been one of the focuses this past month with Jane and I meeting with David Templeman and Robyn Clarke on the 11th of September. PHCC election asks will be included in the Peel Alliance document used to advocate for funding as we approach election season.

Our asks are:

- The Science of Restoring our Estuary – Total \$2,085,000, being:
 - \$500,000 Science Advisor
 - \$750,000 Restoration Projects
 - \$175,000 Community Engagement Co-ordinator (2 years)
 - \$315,000 Community Educator (4 Years)
 - \$185,000 Incursion and Excursions support for schools (4 years)
 - \$160,000 Capital Works – Tourism/Wetland informative signage
- Waterways Research Infrastructure Project – \$2,077,000
- Aboriginal Ranger Program - \$1,840,000
- Rescuing the Lake Clifton Thrombolites - \$500,000

On the 24th of August Jane O'Malley, Sue Fyfe and myself met with Diane Evers MLA to discuss her Forest Bill. The Bill recognises the native forest as valuable and irreplaceable source of economic, environmental and social benefits and calls for the end of logging by the Forests Products Commission. The retention of native forest allows for the investment in opportunities such as eco-tourism, honey and bee production, water provisions and carbon credits.

The Governor of Western Australia the Hon Kim Beazley took time out to visit Mandurah on the 8th of October. PHCC was invited to join a cruise of the waterways to Mariners Cove where Sarah Way of Ways to Nature conducted a 30-minute walking tour of the Creery Wetlands. The Governor was clearly impressed with the beauty of our wetlands and the incredible journeys our migratory birds travel.

Jane and I attended the 2020 Post Budget Breakfast Briefing hosted by the Peel Development Commission on the 9th of October.

News

PHCC has undergone its annual Organisational Audit, which to the credit of Jane, Karen and the rest of the team has been flawless!

The auditors were extremely impressed with the electronic systems that PHCC has in place and their feedback was glowing. Congratulations to Karen and the whole team.

Our wonderful annual Wetlands Weekender mini festival was held on the 10 and 11th of October to coincide with World Migratory Bird Day and to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the listing of our wetlands under the Ramsar Convention, was a fabulous event. A huge amount of work was done across the team and Bob and I were involved in the sub-group that evaluated last year's event and assisted in setting the program for this year. Congratulations to Steve, Sharon, Julie and the team for such a positive event that was very well attended by community, with >600 people being involved across the weekend.

The PHCC will hold 2 annual 'festivals', the Wetland Weekender (World Migratory Bird Day) with grass roots events at the Coodanup Foreshore, and the Wetlands Festival (World Wetlands Day in February), focussed more in central Mandurah. The 2021 Wetlands Festival will be beautifully linked to the annual Cockburn Wetlands Conference, which will be held in Mandurah for 2021, thanks to renovations works at Cockburn and the team's efforts to secure this conference in our patch.

Special mention and thank you to Thelma who played a significant role in supporting Winjan Aboriginal Corporation, who are successful third round recipients in the Aboriginal Ranger Program. The funding is for a 21-month period providing jobs for 3 part-time rangers and training for 12 individuals. The PHCC will be providing on-ground works programs and provide ongoing support, with the hope that the Ranger program is successfully embedded into delivery of works, gradually expanded and continues long into the future.

Welcome to Charlie Jones our newest member of the team.

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