

# Science & Waterways Project REPORT

PHCC General Meeting – 22 October 2020

Steve Fisher, Program Manager, Science & Waterways

## Welcome Charlie Jones / Vale Sharon Meredith

**Sharon Meredith will be leaving the Science and Waterways team** on 5 November to pursue some of life's other challenges outside of PHCC. Thank you Sharon for the way **you have captured the hearts and minds of our community over the past four years, spreading the *wise use of wetlands message*. Your enthusiasm and dedication will be sadly missed.**

**On a brighter note, we welcome Charlie Jones to the team taking over the reins from Sharon as Community Engagement Coordinator – Wetlands and People. Charlie will be working with us for a few days here and there from 9 October before starting in a full time capacity on 27 October.**



*From left: Charlie Jones, Sharon “The Stint” Meredith and Dudley Dolphin*

**RLP – Wetlands and people: A community restoring the ecological character of the Peel-Yalgorup Ramsar 482 Wetlands (The Ramsar Project)      Nov 2018 – June 2023    \$4,996,221**

### Year 3 Quarter 1 Reporting

Coordinated by Steve Fisher

- **Submitted the Year 3 Quarter 1 Outputs Report and the Annual Progress Report for Year 2 in MERIT**
- Services completed to date for Year 3 are as follows (the total number to be delivered for Year 3 is shown in parentheses for each):
  - **1** baseline data sets collected and/or synthesized (**5** required)
  - **40** communications material published (**75**)
  - **2** field days held (**2**)

- 0 on-ground works on private land (8)
- 6 community / stakeholder engagement workshops (28)
- 0 ha controlling access (60)
- 0 ha treated for pest animals, initial (49)
- 0 ha treated for pest animals, follow up - monitoring, baiting & trapping foxes, feral cats (90)
- 0 ha debris removal (10)
- 1 agreements established - Landholder Works Agreements (4)
- 0 monitoring regimes established (0)
- 6 days maintaining monitoring regimes (17)
- 0 ha area surveyed for fauna (0)
- 0 fauna surveys conducted (3)
- 0 additional fauna survey specific to cormorant breeding conducted ( )
- 0 flora surveys conducted (0)
- 3 negotiations with community, landholders, farmers, 0 traditional owners, industry groups (6)
- 65 days of project planning and delivery (260)
- 5 planning and delivery documents for delivery of the project services (20)
- 34 ha of initial weed removal (83)
- 0 ha of follow-up weed removal (70)
- 15 ha revegetated -preparation, planting and fencing at 6 sites within Ramsar Site and catchment (15)
- 0 days site preparation (0)
- 3 water quality surveys conducted (10)
- 0 weed distribution surveys conducted (0)
- 4 sites identified for potential onground works (8)

### **Ramsar Component 1: Science and Collaborative Management**

**Managed by Rick James, Coordinator Wetlands Science and Management**

#### **Yalgorup Lakes Surface Water Quality Monitoring (YLSWQM) Program**

- **19 sites are being assessed** covering the 17 discrete waterbodies that comprise the Yalgorup Lakes system.

**Regular monthly monitoring continued** (August & September). Sampling team included volunteer Sebastian Jones and Jennie Beeson.



***Groundwater survey work at Lake Clifton (DBCA's Gavin McGrath & Josephine Hyde)***

- **The Lake Clifton thrombolites: Assessing groundwater flows and thrombolite health**
  - **A major component of PHCC's NLP2 Wetlands and People project**

- **Assessing the flow of fresh / brackish groundwater to the thrombolites** is important as this flow is fundamental to their ecology.
  - **A trial survey was conducted with DBCA & UWA staff** using Electrical Resistivity Tomography (ERT) which can be used to **differentiate groundwater layers**. This provides a **2D picture of the various layers underground based on their relative conductance**.
- **Support to the Mayfield REI work**
- Organised and undertook a **water quality monitoring round to assess six of the Mayfield REI “small scale intervention” sites**.
  - **Carried out an assessment of the riffle structures that had suffered a partial failure at the Butler property (Cookernup)**.

## **Ramsar Component 2: Wetlands & People (Community Engagement)**

**Managed by Sharon Meredith, Coordinator, Ramsar Community Engagement**

- **Incursion to St Joseph’s Primary School (7 September)**
  - St Joseph’s Primary School is the first school in the Peel to sign up to the **Children’s University Program** which provides extra-curricular learning opportunities for children. PHCC has been working in collaboration with the Children’s University to **create worksheets and educational packages that educates students on the Peel-Yalgorup Wetland**. These worksheets were **delivered to a class of 30 students** who have now **enrolled in the Children’s University program**.
- **Waterbirds Workshop (17 September)**
  - **Introduced the main waterbird species of the Peel-Yalgorup Wetland to a group of 30 beginner birdwatchers**. The session focused on building knowledge around waterbird identification, wetland ecology, and surveying techniques. The workshop is **followed by three wetland field trips**.
- **The Wetlands Weekender (10 & 11 October)**
  - Successfully coordinated and delivered the **Wetlands Weekender 10 and 11 October**. The event program included:
    - Saturday 10 Oct**
    - **Estuary Tour & Nature Walk by boat from Mandurah to Mariners Cove (2.30 pm – 5.30 pm)**.
      - Attendees enjoyed a boat tour along the **Peel-Harvey Estuary on board the Dancing Dolphin**. **Vicki Stokes** from BirdLife and **Steve Fisher** from PHCC **shared stories about the wetland** environment. The boat docked at Mariners Cove and attendees **joined local Zoologist Sarah Way to explore the Creery Wetlands on foot**. On the boat ride home, Indigenous Community Leader **George Walley provided cultural stories** while patrons enjoyed a selection of local wines and produce. **Attended by 60 people**.
    - **Movie Night – at Reading Cinemas (6 pm – 9 pm)**
      - The Australian classic **Storm Boy (2019)** was screened at Reading Cinema’s Mandurah. The event **also included an informative presentation on the Peel-Yalgorup Ramsar Wetland, The National Shorebird Monitoring Program, and the Pave the Way Clean up**. **Attended by 70 people**.
    - Sunday 11 October**
    - **Wonders of the Wetland (9 am- 2 pm)** where Coodanup Foreshore Reserve came alive with free, **family-friendly events, including:**
      - a selection of **vibrant market stalls** with quality local arts and produce.
      - **entertainment, live music, cultural storytelling**



- The colourful kid's corner had activities such as **crab origami, paint a shorebird stencil, nature playdough, wetland waterbugs and a scavenger hunt.**
- **605 people officially registered.**
- **The Dog's Breakfast (Coodanup foreshore 9 am – 11 am)**
  - Hosted **by City of Mandurah Rangers and BirdLife, inviting local dog owners to learn how to walk their dog around the estuary whilst also protecting local wildlife.** Breakfast was provided to attendees. **Attended by 59 people.**
- **Pave the Way Clean Up at Coodanup foreshore (10 am 12 pm)**
  - Pave the Way, is a community Clean Up Event that has been running since 2014. **Inspired by the award winning photographer David Rennie, the event was designed to clean up the Coodanup Foreshore of litter, and pave the way for migratory shorebirds** which arrive on the shorelines of the Peel-Yalgorup System at this time of year. **Attended by 82 people**



*A montage of the Wetlands Weekender events.*

- **Key stakeholders for the event were :**
  - BirdLife WA
  - City of Mandurah
  - Mandurah Cruises
  - Ways to Nature
  - Mandjoogordap Dreaming
  - Tangaroa Blue
  - Coastal Waste Warriors
  - Estuary Guardians
  - Pinjarra Men's Shed
  - Wetland Centre Cockburn
  - Peel Bright Minds
  - Mandurah Environment and Heritage Group
  - Pinjarra Lions Club
  - Street Hassle
  
- **Reel it In Clean Up Event (25 October)**
  - DBCA has scheduled the cleanup event for the **25 October.** The event works with local stakeholders to clean up two sites in Mandurah across one weekend with a **particular messaging about the hazards discarded fishing gear presents to aquatic species.** Last year over **200 people attended the event that involved PHCC, Mandurah Cruises, Tangaroa Blue, Coastal Waste Warriors, City of**

**Mandurah, Mandurah Volunteer Dolphin Rescue Group and Tackle World.** PHCC is supporting this event and will provide lunch to all the participant's cooked by the Falcon Lions Club.

- **World Wetlands Day Conference (2 February 2021)**
  - **Cockburn Wetlands Centre accepted PHCC's invitation to host the World Wetlands Day conference at Mandurah Performing Arts Centre in February 2021.** PHCC has offered to support the conference through hiring the Boardwalk theatre, provision of wetland tours, presentations for the conference, and aligning festival events to celebrate:
    - World Wetlands Day
    - **30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the listing of the Peel-Yalgorup Wetlands as Ramsar 482 (1990) and**
    - **50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Ramsar Convention (1971).**

### **Ramsar Component 3: On-Ground**

**Managed and delivered by Mike Griffiths, Wetlands Restoration Officer with support from Rick James and Steve Fisher**

- **Revegetation**
  - Final work carried out at **north side of Lake Clifton to complete revegetation activities** commenced in 2019/20 including **removal of old tree guards and fencing debris, and control of Cottonbush** at revegetation sites.
- **Weed control**
  - **Watsonia control** carried out across **19 ha on Jeegarnyeejip Island** in the **Murray River delta** under an agreement **with Shire of Murray to follow up past control works** as part of a long-term management plan.
  - **Watsonia control** carried out along **3 km strip of shoreline at south-west Harvey Estuary**, complementing control work in past years leaving scattered patches (**see photo below**). **Pink Gladiolus and Cape Tulip were targeted as secondary priorities.** Contactors have also treated **Watsonia, South African Pigface and other weeds in Coodanup Foreshore Reserve** close to Nairns Bird Hide.



***Weed contractor treating Watsonia at Harvey Estuary foreshore***

- **Landholder Works Agreements**
  - Discussions held with **three landholders with property** visits for potential on-ground works through **targeted Landholder Works Agreements (LWAs)**. These potentially involve **controlling Cottonbush, Wild Fig, Watsonia, and garden escape weeds**. Targeted LWAs are used for weed control and other on-ground works on private properties **to complement work on the adjoining Ramsar Site**.
- **Project planning discussions held with stakeholder organisations/agencies to establish potential Ramsar on-ground projects**; to date this has included **DBCA, City of Mandurah, Shire of Murray and Shire of Waroona**. These discussions cover potential works **until June 2023 in existing project areas and in potential new areas in and around the Ramsar wetlands**.
- **Site visits for potential projects**
  - **Access Control**
    - **Birchmont boat ramp**, east side to look into access issues and **damage by 4WD vehicles** in Kooljerranup Nature Reserve (with DBCA).
    - **Lake Clifton north in Yalgorup National Park** to inspect access issues between national park and private property subject to Landholder Works Agreement (with DBCA).
  - **Weed control and other on-ground works. visits to**
    - **Harvey Estuary south-west foreshore** area to scope treatment of **Watsonia and other cormous weeds** (with DBCA).
    - **Nairns/Coodanup Foreshore Reserve** area to scope treatment of **Watsonia and other weeds** in consultation with land owner and City of Mandurah
    - **Lake Goegrup fringing conservation areas** to inspect issues with **weeds and access issues in Nature Reserve** i.e. damage by motor bike and 4WD vehicle activity (with DBCA).
    - **Samphire Cove Nature Reserve** to inspect condition of **feral animal-proof fence** with view to contributing to **upgrade and maintenance** (with DBCA, Friends of Samphire Cove).
- **Weed Treatment Planning**
  - **Planning discussions held with stakeholder organisations/agencies (coupled with stakeholder project planning meetings) to review weed priority list compiled in 2019 and to map locations of selected weeds**. To date, this has been with same stakeholders as for project planning meetings (DBCA, City of Mandurah, Shire of Murray, Shire of Waroona) but will also include other parties and individuals with local weed knowledge. This additional information is to guide the Wetlands and People project work in its remaining years.
- **Community Engagement – Ongoing works**
  - **Lake Mealup Preservation Society and Friends of Samphire Cove consulted** to discuss potential works. Several potential **activities with both groups were identified**.

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Managed by Jo Garvey, Coordinator Healthy Waterways, supported by Jesse Rowley

- **Communications & Events**
  - **Four articles featured** in Edition 10 of *Wattle and Quoll*
  - **Draft versions of short films** are being reviewed by PHCC's communications team and ensuring that **PHCC's styling** criteria is being met
  - **Alcoa media release** featured in the **Mandurah Mail** focusing on the Hymus Creek Planting Day and Cultural Knowledge Sharing event (21 August)
  - Planning underway to install **interpretive signage** at the **Karu Bilya Wetlands Restoration site** to **inform and showcase** the work achieved through the **Restoring the Serpentine River project**.
  - **Waterways Steering Committee** meeting held 24 September to **provide update** to committee members and **receive feedback and endorsement for the Serpentine River Action Plan**.
  - As part of an **excursion**, the Rivercare Team conducted a **Macroinvertebrate activity** with **72 students and 10 adults from Greenfields and Mandurah Primary Schools at Riverside Gardens** along the Serpentine River
  
- **Karu Bilya Wetlands Restoration Project**
  - **Follow-up weed control** undertaken within the **Karu Bilya Wetlands restoration** site and surrounding **Banksia Woodlands** this October targeting priority environmental weeds including arum lily, cape tulip and watsonia
  - **Natural fertiliser trials** underway to **observe changes over time** between fertiliser applied and non-fertiliser applied sites within the Karu Bilya Wetlands **revegetation areas**
  - Continuing to work with Water Corporation, Main Roads and Department of Water, Environmental Regulation and private landholders to help **reduce illegal access** into the **Karu Bilya site and neighbouring Peel Main Drain project area**
  
- **Hymus Creek Restoration Project planting and cultural knowledge sharing event, Lowlands Farm**
  - This project has been acquitted with the following activities completed:
    - **2000** native species planted and guarded,
    - **1.6km** of fencing installed and
    - Weed control over **3.8ha**
  
- **Serpentine River Action Plan (RAP)**
  - The **Plan was endorsed** by the Waterways (Rivercare & Ramsar On-grounds) **Steering Committee** on the 24<sup>th</sup> of September
  - Following **recommendations from the RAP**, the team has received quotes from **two suppliers to develop Concept Plans at two sites along the Serpentine River; Karnup Road and Wilkinson Road**. A further two suppliers were contacted however declined to quote. The team is now **reviewing the quotes** and will send recommendations through to the Waterways Steering Committee for feedback and endorsement
  
- **Dung Beetle Project**
  - This project is ready for acquittal with the final report being due by the end of October.
  
- **Dolphin Monitoring Program**
  - **DBCA** have now obtained all the necessary **approvals** to install four **monitoring cameras** at dolphin stranding hotspot zones (PHCC contributed to the payment of two cameras, the other funders include the City of Mandurah and the Mandurah Volunteer Dolphin Rescue Group)



- The Department is now **liaising with local community groups and stakeholders to identify locations** to install the cameras
  
- **Water Hyacinth**
  - The team is continuing to work closely with **Landcare SJ, Envirapest (weed contractor) and the Department of Communities to maintain** the highly aquatic weed invasive **water hyacinth**.
  - Minor outbreaks of water hyacinth have occurred in the Serpentine River however, the Department has been notified and continue to control these outbreaks.
  - **Local canoe and kayaking groups** continue to **notify officers** of when water hyacinth has been sighted whilst travelling through the river.
  
- **Community Environment Grants**
  - Two (out of five in total, with one already acquitted) more community environment projects have been acquitted with the following activities being completed:
    - **Wilkinson Road Restoration Project:**
      - **2.1km of fencing to exclude livestock** from wetland and to **minimise illegal rubbish dumping and vandalism** on property
      - **Weed control over 24ha** targeting high priority environmental weeds including cottonbush, arum lily and cape tulip
      - **800** rushes planted within wetland to connect corridors for native fauna species
      - **Feral animal control** activities targeting roaming feral cats and foxes
    - **Environmental Repairs on Riverlea Farm on the Natural Section of the Serpentine River**
      - **250m of fencing** to help **stabilise banks** at stock crossing sites within the Serpentine River
      - **Riffle repair to increase habitat** for native fish and macroinvertebrates as well as to encourage temporary sediment accumulation at stages of high flow
      - **Stock crossing repair** to provide livestock with a river drink-point. The granite rocks utilised are designed to allow cattle to enter the river for only a short amount of time
      - **Weed control treatment over 11ha, protecting a further 200ha**
  
- **River Health Assessments**
  - **Sampling** now fully **complete** with the second round of monitoring completed in September
  - The **final report** along with the **South-West Index of River Condition (SWIRC)** will be submitted by the end November by **Murdoch University**
  
- **Fish Community Index Sampling**
  - To take place **early December** by **Murdoch University** to calculate health indices for the estuarine components of the Serpentine River based on the structure and function of the fish community and the benthic invertebrate community. These indices are calculated by sampling present day fish and benthic invertebrate communities and comparing against historical data. In this way, a report card showing a decline, improvement or no change in the condition of the estuary can be produced. A similar approach has been implemented in the Swan-Canning. **(this sampling also taking place in the Murray River, see Royalties for Regions: Peel-Harvey Estuary Grants)**
  
- **Funding beyond 2020**
  - PHCC has been successful in securing **US\$600,000 from Alcoa Foundation** to continue to the **Three Rivers One Estuary Initiative** by restoring the Serpentine River as well as expanding



restoration works into the Murray River through the '*Healing Bilya: Restoring the Murray and Serpentine Rivers*' project.



*Dave Morgan from Murdoch University undertaking River Health Assessments*



*Stock crossing repair and fencing through 07\_ALC\_RIC\_2018 CEG*

**Royalties for Regions: Peel-Harvey Estuary Grants**

**Jun 2018 – Sep 2021 \$750,000**

**Managed by Jo Garvey, Coordinator Healthy Waterways, supported by Jesse Rowley**

- **Communications**
  - Article titled '**Filling the Peel-Harvey Estuary to the bream with the important fish species**' distributed by **RecfishWest** to showcase the **Black Bream project**
- **Stock Enhancement of Black Bream in the Murray River (see also 1FTE Science Advisor Report)**
  - **Black bream** broodstock have **spawned (12 October)**
  - Black bream fertilised eggs **transferred to John Tonkin College (JTC)** Aquaculture facility on **13 October**
  - The **bream fingerlings will be raised by JTC students** under guidance from Murdoch University
- **Harvey River Demonstration Reach / Marron, more than a meal**
  - Have acquired all the **necessary approvals to install logs in the Harvey Main Drain** to provide **habitat for native fish** (scheduled to take place January 2021). The **Water Corporation will undertake the installation**
  - **Annual stakeholder meeting** scheduled for **October 23** in partnership with Greening Australia to discuss the **progression of restoration works along the Harvey River.**
- **Fish Friendly Farms**
  - PHCC is supporting several projects occurring in the Peel Catchment that align with the Fish Friendly Farms initiative with the **aim to have a landscape scale impact rather than an 'ad-hoc' approach.**
    - Enhancing fish habitat (1) - **supporting TNCs Shellfish Gardening Project** in the Peel-Harvey Estuary (see also 1 FTE Science Advisor below)
    - Enhancing fish habitat (2) – investigating **occurrence of black pygmy mussels in the Murray River**
    - **Carter's freshwater mussels in farm dams** – continuing to support Alan Lymbery (Murdoch University) when required.

- **Fish Community Index Sampling** planning underway to calculate health indices for the estuarine components of the **Murray River** based on the **structure and function of the fish community and the benthic invertebrate community** (this sampling also scheduled to take place in the Serpentine River – see **Alcoa Foundation, Connecting Corridors and Communities Restoring the Serpentine River**)
  - This will be undertaken by **Murdoch University’s Fish Health Unit Team**
- **River Health Assessments**
  - **Quotes** have been obtained from Murdoch University, Department of Water and Environmental Regulation and Wetlands Research and Management to undertake **river health assessments at three sites in the Murray River**.
  - The team is now **assessing the quotes** to determine the supplier to undertake this activity.
  - **Both theory and practical training** has been requested to skill-up PHCC Officers to allow river health assessments to be undertaken in-house in the future.
- The Project’s ‘Delivery Components’ are tracking well with meetings and planning sessions to discuss future works with Murdoch University, the Nature Conservancy and community.

### State NRM: Saving Lake McLarty Phase 1: addressing acidification, hydrology and habitats

**March 2019 – June 2022 \$350,859**

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**Managed by Rick James, Coordinator Science and Management, supported by Jennie Beeson**

- Jennie Beeson inducted and familiarized with field sites
- Developing a **scopes of work for (i) assessment of acid sulfate materials and (ii) establishment of a network of groundwater bores** underlying the lake bed and adjacent catchment in consultation with DWER’s Brad Degens
- **Contracted consultants** (Urbaqua, 14 September) **to undertake a feasibility study to assess various options for augmenting the water level** in the lake.
- Hosted the **Lake McLarty Technical Advisory Group** meeting on 8 October, convened by DBCA and attended by representatives from **DWER, Friends of Lake McLarty Shire of Murray and BirdLife**. Also attended by other community members with an interest in the lake including **Mike Craig (UWA), Peter Muirden and Mia D’Alessio**. Each presented the **work they had or were planning to undertake to improve the condition or better understand the threats to the condition of the lake**.

### Royalties for Regions / City of Mandurah / PHCC 1FTE Science Advisor

**May 2018 – Oct 2021  
\$468,000**

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**Managed by Steve Fisher, Program Manager, Science and Waterways (in addition to oversight of the projects above)**

**Attended the following key meetings with:**

- **Mike Venarsky, Adrian Pinder and Geoff Barret (DBCA) and Rick James** on 20 August to discuss collaboration on the lake Clifton monitoring component of the Wetlands and People (Ramsar 482) project
- **Neil Carroll and Allan Claydon (City of Mandurah, CoM) and Rick James and Jane O’Malley** on 27 August to discuss Neil and Allan’s roles in **CoM’s new structure** and the **potential for collaboration on projects**, including the **Data Array (CoM) and Water Research Infrastructure Program (PHCC)**. **Followed up with a meeting with Neil on 6 October.**
- **Denise Crosby (Cockburn Wetlands Centre) and Sharon Meredith and Jane O’Malley** on 31 August to explore the opportunity to **co-host the World Wetlands Day conference in Mandurah in February 2020.**

- **Fiona Valesini and Theo Kearing (TNC), Bronte Grant (DWER), Thelma Crook, Jo Garvey and Jesse Rowley** to explore opportunities for **Noongar training and employment** and engagement through our various **waterways restoration projects**
- **PHCC Science Steering Committee** on 3 September
- **Ian Teakle and Matt Barnes (BMT Global), Rod Peake (Shire of Murray), Matt Hipsey and Peisheng Huang (UWA)** and Jane O'Malley on 15 September to discuss the progress of the modelling work for the proposed Point Grey development
- **PHCC Waterways Steering Committee** on 24 September
- **Matt Hipsey (UWA), Fiona Valesini (TNC), Caroline Knight and Jane O'Malley** to present and discuss the findings of the **ARC Linkage Project** Balancing estuarine and societal health in a changing environment with the **Environmental Protection Agency at their meeting on 17 September.**
- **Lake McLarty Technical Advisory Group** meeting on **October 8** (see **Saving Lake McLarty** above)
- **Mark Cugley and Benson Todd (DBCA), Myri Riddy (Mandurah Cruises), Sally Kirby (Mandurah Volunteer Dolphin Rescue Group, Krista Nicholson (PhD Candidate) and Paddi Creevey (PDC)** on 7 October to progress the **rescue of River, a Peel-Harvey resident dolphin entangled in fishing line.** As a result of this meeting a **Dolphin Incident Support Group** was formed with the above membership which met on **15 and 22 October. NB. River is yet to be rescued.**
- **The Steering Group of Peel Bright Minds** on 20 August and 22 October.
- **Made the following presentations**
  - A **walk and talk** about wise use of wetlands with **78 Year 3 students and 10 adults from Greenfields Primary School and Mandurah Primary School** on 17 Sep on their excursion to the **Serpentine River near Lake Goegrup.** **George Walley** also provided commentary on **Noongar perspectives** and values with **Thelma Crook** running a **water bug identification activity.**
  - Organised for **Sarah Way (Ways to Nature) and Jo Garvey and Jesse Rowley** to run similar activities with **72 Year 4 students and 10 adults** on 17 September.
  - A **walk and talk with 64 Year 5 students and 10 adults** from the two primary schools on their excursion to the **Lake Clifton Thrombolites, the Dawesville Channel and Seascapes** with **George Walley and Sarah Way** on 22 October.
  - **Together these three excursions reached a total of 214 students and 30 adults.**
  - **Commentary to approx. 65 participants in the Estuary Cruise Event, part of the Wetlands Weekender** on 10 October.
  - **Presented a brief introduction to the Ramsar 482 Site and its ecological character to approx. 70 attendees at the Movie Night at the Wetlands Weekender** on 10 October.
- **Provision of Advice / driving projects to assist in the restoration of Peel Waterways**
  - Our application to **the Alcoa Foundation Grants for Healing Bilya-Restoring the Murray and Serpentine Rivers** project Dec 2020 – Dec 2023 was successful, securing **US \$600,000 (2021-2023).**
  - Contributed to PHCC's submission to **the Shire of Murray on their Southern Palusplain Strategy** (12 October).
  - Participated in a **workshop** on 9 September organised by **DPIRD (Fisheries)** to perform a **risk assessment of the impact of fishing practices** certified by the **Marine Stewardship Council** for the Peel-Harvey Estuarine Fishery on the **ecological health of the Peel-Harvey Estuary.** The workshop was **attended by various representatives of DPIRD including Emily Fisher, Kim Smith, Danielle Johnston, Brett Wise, Steve Taylor, Linda Bellchambers (all Fisheries Scientists) and Tim Nicholas (Fisheries Management), Frances D'Souza (DWER), Vicki Stokes (BirdLife WA), George Walley,**



Brett Brenchley (CoM), Adrian Parker (PDC), Neil Loneragan (Murdoch University); Damian Bell (Mandurah Licensed Fishermens Association) and Recfishwest.



*Greenfields Primary School students investigate water bugs during their Serpentine River excursion*

### **Events (PHCC sponsoring or presenting - see also Wetlands & People Community Engagement)**

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- **Previous events (20 August to 22 October):**

- 10 & 11 October 2020 **Wetlands Weekender**

- **Future events (after 22 October)**

- 24 & 25 October 2020 **Reel it In Clean-Up**
- 30 October 2020 **Shorebird Mentor Program - Workshop2**
- 2 February 2020 **World Wetlands Day Conference**

### **Work Health and Safety**

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- **No incidents or near-misses to report**