

Annual Report 2019-2020



Bream release, Serpentine River

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, a transformational time of year, I reflect on the transformation that COVID 19 has thrust upon us. Living in what must be one of the safest places on earth we have been spared from so much of the pain that others across the world are suffering.

While COVID has wrought havoc, it has also brought community closer together. Unprecedented use of natural areas during this pandemic highlights the undisputable importance of healthy landscapes for the wellbeing of all.

PHCC has travelled well through this challenging time and I thank the Board, CEO, staff and volunteers for their ongoing commitment to ensure that our vision of people working together for a healthy environment is at the forefront of all that we do.

The CEO and staff have worked tirelessly and professionally this past year, it has been a huge effort to change working practices, but our fabulous staff have excelled, and I thank you.

I thank the Board for the ongoing strategic direction and overarching governance, noting that we have now received another year of unqualified audit.

Our partnerships with government, and the private sector are robust, and our delivery of projects remains exemplary despite the difficulties that this year has brought, I thank our partners at all levels.

Our work in the upper catchment continues to strengthen, as does our work supporting our farming community, demonstrating PHCC's ability to deliver quality environmental outcomes across our patch.

As always, our volunteers for which we are so grateful, have given tirelessly in ongoing work to ensure that our Catchment is the healthy, resilient ecosystem that we all strive for. Thank you, your commitment is so very much appreciated.

There is much work ahead as issues such as the proposed Point Grey Channel, feral animals, and a drying climate to name just a few threaten our catchment. PHCC will continue to advocate with a voice backed by strong science for our community and the environment.

This past year has seen many highlights and I encourage you to read the collective achievements of 2019-2020.

Warm regards

Caroline Knight

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

786 Volunteers 2986 Hours
\$104,510 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

- 30 community engagement and education events coordinated and delivered involving 10,643 participants
- Hosted the inaugural Wetlands Weekender, a mini festival celebrating and educating the community about the wonders of our Peel-Yalgorup Wetland Ramsar Site: 1 weekend, 472 people, 8 events
- 9,175 people attended "The Overwintering Exhibition" which showcased local and international artwork that celebrated shorebirds and their habitat
- 33 volunteers trained through Citizen Science initiatives, including the National Shorebird Count Bird Identification Workshop and the Micro Plastic Program
- 61 trained volunteers identified 68 species and counted 55,461 wetland birds in the National Shorebird Count
- 110 students engaged to learn about our Ramsar Site through education incursions and excursions
- 1.6 tonnes (225 m3) of rubbish removed from the estuary, wetland foreshores and reserves by 226 participants through Pave the Way and Clean-Up Peel Waterways Month events

Wetlands Science & Management - Facilitating collaborative management and monitoring to enable evidence based management of the Ramsar Site

- Draft Addendum to the Ecological Character Description of the Ramsar 482 site produced to document the current status and understanding of processes affecting the ecological character
- 19 sample sites representative of the 17 discrete waterbodies comprising the Yalgorup Lakes monitored monthly for water quality and water level
- 1 high resolution aerial survey of the Lake Clifton thrombolite community carried out to map the extent and biological activity of this threatened ecological community
- 1 groundwater monitoring program initiated at Lake Clifton to investigate fresh groundwater flows to the thrombolite community
- Survey undertaken to assess the breeding status of the Little Black Cormorant and Little Pied Cormorant

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

- 27,107 seedlings planted and protected to revegetate 15 ha of priority areas at Lake McLarty and the north-east end of Lake Clifton
- 250 ha managed to control wild pigs, foxes and rabbits
- 55 ha of McLarty Nature Reserve protected by fencing to restrict four-wheel drive and motorbike access.
- 3 weed distribution surveys conducted
- 118 ha of new areas treated to remove weeds
- 131 ha of follow-up weed control in previously treated areas
- 330 ha of privately owned properties abutting the Ramsar Site assessed and treated for weeds





Numbat Neighbourhood

\$2.17 million

Jul 2019 - Jun 2023

Aust Government [DoEE]
National Landcare Program

178 Volunteers 2247 Hours
\$78,645 in-kind

A World for Woodlands

\$1.2 million

Jul 2019 - Jun 2023

Aust Government [DoEE]
National Landcare Program

91 Volunteers 274 Hours
\$9,590 in-kind

Greening Farms

\$857,000

Jul 2019 - Jun 2023

Aust Government [DoA]
National Landcare Program

86 Volunteers 294 Hours
\$10,290 in-kind



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

Goals 5 & 6 Delivering, Engaging

- \$132,676 granted under Community Environmental Grants. Landholder contributions of \$195,762 (232ha protected, 25 km fencing, 22 ha of revegetation, 12 ha weed control and large scale feral animal control)
- 68 feral cats removed and recorded through the Farmers for Fauna program
- 1800 ha of wild rabbit control through RHDV1-K5 virus release. 44 participants across 65 sites
- Monitoring in Dryandra Woodland for cats, foxes and threatened species to determine numbat habitat value and support for additional maintenance on feral free enclosures
- 99 people attended workshops and training events (53 landholders), including 1080 baiting accreditation, Numbats in the Neighbourhood S.H.A.R.E and Numbat Dig Workshop
- 131 students and teachers attended a Numbat Incursion where PHCC supported Project Numbat to present and raise awareness about Numbats and other threatened species
- 130 people attended the PHCC presentation at Threatened Species Forum
- 111 participated in Williams Fox Hunt & 53 people in the Wandering Fox Hunt (sponsorship only)
- 14 landholders visiting PHCC-DBCA-Project Numbat Stall at the Narrogin Show
- 4 red-tailed phascogale nest boxes installed
- Invited onto the Numbat Recovery Team and supporting Perth Zoo's Numbat Captive Breeding Program

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

Goals 4, 5 & 6 Facilitating, Delivering, Engaging

- \$ 140,856.47 granted to 10 projects, with landholder contributions of \$89,946.52
- >500 ha protected through - 3 access control structures, 3.24 km fencing, 17 ha of dieback treatment, 3 habitat structures installed, 4 ha of revegetation, 94 ha of pest animal control, 2 fauna surveys, 1 flora survey, 2 weed management surveys, over 300 ha of weed control, 2 days of seed collection
- Establishment of a vegetation condition assessment regime
- Noongar involvement increased to include participation in on-ground works and employment
- 100 community members and land managers engaged through 5 events, including training, awareness raising and planting days

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

- \$114,894.74 of projects funded across 19 farms, attracting \$181,302.58 in-kind contributions
- 210 ha of on-farm vegetation protected or established, including 189 ha of weed control
- 23 km of fencing to exclude stock from 81 ha of native vegetation
- Supported 2 Regenerative Farming events attended by 126 landowners
- 3 Land for Wildlife Assessments completed across the Catchment
- Delivered Pigs, Pests, and Biosecurity Field Day in Hotham-Williams Catchment, attended by 18 farmers





RALF

Jul 2019 - Jun 2023

Aust Government [DoA]
National Landcare Program

36 Volunteers 127 Hours
\$4,445 in-kind

Regional Estuaries Initiative

Drainage & Soils
\$2.72 million

Jun 2016 - Jun 2020

WA Government [DWER]

24 Volunteers 288 Hours
\$10,080 in-kind

Saving Lake McLarty

\$350,859

2019 - 2022

WA Government
[State NRM]

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

- 3 field day events, reaching a total of 60 farmers, and 6 community events
- Partnered with 3 different grower groups to engage with over 90 active rural community members
- 200 ha of vegetation and creek protection, 14 ha of weed control and 59 ha of revegetation for biodiversity through supporting Greening Farms projects
- Information sharing and networking using social media, email lists, newsletters, articles and flyers
- Direct engagement with > 160 community members and > 30 individuals in farming groups initiatives

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

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

Mayfield Project

- 7 on-ground projects complete with winter 2020 flows flowing through the constructed infrastructure
- Projects are now in a phase of PHCC staff working with landholders to train them to operate the structures

Peel MD Weir and Swales

- Working with Water Corporation on design for construction of the weir, culverts and modifications to swales
- Designs for all components now 90% complete
- Timelines from Water Corporation and PHCC have completion of all infrastructure by December 2020
- Operational phase of the project expected to commence in June 2021 with existing SAP being modified
- Conceptual operation of Swales project presented to REI Steering Committee and approved

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

- 24 farmers participated in soil testing program, and received detailed soil testing, Whole Farm Nutrient Mapping, expert agronomic advice service and one-day workshop.
- 13 people (4 farming groups) participated in a Pasture Field Walk to assess a variety of fertiliser applications as part of the uPtake Program

Assessing and arresting the threats of acid sulfate soils and declining water levels at Lake McLarty

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

- 1 detailed assessment of the aquatic invertebrate population at Lake McLarty completed in collaboration with DBCA's Ecosystem Science program
- 1 acid sulfate soils investigation completed
- 1 annual lake water level and quality assessment completed





Connecting Corridors and Communities

\$750,000 USD

Jan 2018 – Dec 2020

Alcoa Foundation

898 Volunteers 3949 Hours
\$138,215 in-kind

Estuary Grants

\$750,000

Jun 2018 – Sep 2021

WA Government [DPIRD]

60 Volunteers 342 Hours
\$11,970 in-kind

Science Integration

\$468,000

May 2018 – Oct 2021

WA Government [DPIRD]

City of Mandurah
PHCC

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

Goals 4, 5 & 6 Facilitating, Delivering, Engaging

- 1 River Action Plan (RAP) for the Serpentine River finalised
- 3 priority sites selected and restoration works undertaken according to the RAP including 3.66 km of fencing, 810 m of bank stabilisation, 80.7 ha of weed control, 871 ha of feral animal control and 13, 575 stems planted across 10.9 ha of riparian foreshore
- 5 sites on the Serpentine River assessed using freshwater fish and crayfish as indicators of river health
- 4 additional sites monitored to assess condition of riverine and fringing vegetation
- 13 Alcoa employees and 2 Bindjareb community members trained in river health assessments
- 13 media articles to increase knowledge, engagement and promote the 'Three Rivers One Estuary' Initiative
- 6 events engaging more than 900 community members and stakeholders

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

Goals 4, 5 & 6 Facilitating, Delivering, Engaging

- 3,000 juvenile black bream released into the Murray River in collaboration with scientists from Murdoch University and John Tonkin College students to boost black bream populations in the Peel-Harvey
- > 700 private dams identified in the Murray, Harvey and Serpentine River sub-catchments as potential sites to study the habitat range of the threatened Carter's Freshwater Mussel
- Weed control and revegetation activities completed across 4 sites to improve biodiversity and ecosystem resilience of the Harvey River
- 5 Articles published as a Focus on River Health series in the local newspaper to increase awareness

Employment of a Science Advisor to drive projects to enhance the health of the Peel-Harvey Estuary and provide leadership for the integration of science into the management of the system

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

- 3 large projects overseen to improve the ecological health of the Peel-Harvey waterways (Estuary Grants, Connecting Corridors and Communities) and the Ramsar Site (Wetlands and People)
- 1 business case completed for the Peel Waterways Institute (Stage 1) for research and engagement infrastructure and equipment to facilitate further scientific research and monitoring activities
- 2 magazine articles communicating science initiatives by PHCC and project partners
- Baseline Ramsar 482 Report Card updated and launched, summarising condition of our Ramsar Site
- 12 presentations, 2 radio & 1 television interviews and 2 school excursions delivered to >800 community members, (& > 20,000 radio and television audience) in Ramsar 101 Master Classes
- 5 universities, 25 scientists and 10 organisations engaged in scientific research for waterways health
- Advocated for science via active membership on Steering Group of Peel Bright Minds (Inspiring Australia)
- Provided expert advice to government, industry and community regarding for example environmental impacts of proposed developments and management arrangements for fisheries management
- Integrated science into PHCC project planning to monitor project outcomes





H-W Rivers

\$500,000

Jan 2018 - Dec 2022

Newmont Goldcorp
Boddington

12 Volunteers 200 Hours
\$7,000 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

- 2nd annual progress report submitted and all 2019 deliverables achieved
- Hotham-Williams RAP field work and desktop assessment completed & report completed
- Spring and Autumn River Health Assessments completed to assess baseline conditions for the RAP
- Employment support in the delivery of the onground components of the Numbat Neighbourhood, Greening Farms and Tunbridge Gully projects with the Hotham-Williams subcatchment
- Media release "Hotham-Williams NRM Partnerships Turn One"
- Active involvement as a member on Newmont's Community Reference Group

Tunbridge Gully

\$158,000

Jul 2015 - Jun 2021

South32

164 Volunteers 624 Hours
\$21,840 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

- 5 planting events with the local community with a total of 164 volunteers planting 9,788 seedlings
- Stage 4 weed control completed
- 3rd year transect and photo monitoring completed
- Active membership and representation of PHCC on the South32 Mine Community Liaison Committee

Lake Clifton Conservation

\$248,500

2018 - 2022

CoM & SoW

2 Volunteers 8 Hours
\$280 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

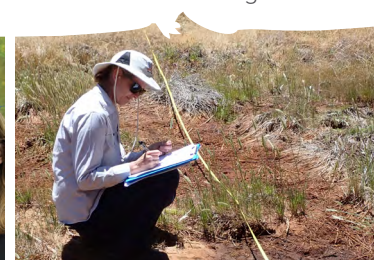
LC Goals 4, 5 & 6 Facilitating, Delivering, Engaging

- 62 landholders registered for the 2020 Seedling Giveaway completing a landholder survey. 55 landholders participated in the event, taking home a share of 1,340 seedlings
- 30 Landholders attended the Lake Clifton Heavenly Hectares Workshop
- Launched small grants program for Lake Clifton Landholders registered with Land For Wildlife
- 1 Lake Clifton Stewardship Grant for rabbit control across several properties
- 4 Land for Wildlife applications received with 3 site visits undertaken and 1 property receiving membership
- 3 Landcare Matters newsletters distributed to Lake Clifton Catchment to raise awareness

Other Highlights

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

- Sponsored the annual Wandering community fox hunt
- Supported Friends of the Reserves – Boddington (Inc.) Ranford Pool and Camballing Reserve projects
- Facilitated the establishment of the WA Feral Working Group, with launch and first meetings held
- Supported Shire of Murray in their decision to refuse Point Grey Marina and Channel, with evidence based support (e.g. witness at State Administrative Tribunal, case studies, deputations, presentations)
- \$380k secured to manage and improve the habitat values of black cockatoo nesting and feeding sites
- Supported application for a local Noongar Rangers Program
- Signed 'Working Together' MOUs with the Wiilman and Bindjareb Elders
- Increased Noongar employment opportunities through partnerships, networking and engagement
- Supported DWER in their Noongar Waterways Management Program – Gabi Wonga



18 Members

Community

Caroline Knight* Chair
Darralyn Ebsary Deputy Chair
Marilyn Gray* Treasurer
Paddy Creevey Secretary
Andy Gulliver Chairman
Howard Mitchell*
Sue Fyfe
Amanda Willmott
David Prattent*
Claire Reid

Local Government

Eliza Dowling (Inland)
Brad Cardilini (Coastal)

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.



30 Staff

Jane O'Malley Chief Executive Officer
Colleen Archibald GIS Co-ordinator
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
Leanne Greene Office Manager/Exec Support
Kristy Gregory Project Support (seconded)
Mike Griffiths Wetlands Restoration Officer
Karen Henderson Mgr Finance & Payroll

Casuarina James Project Support (casual)
Rick James Co-ord Wetlands Science & Mgmt
Megan LeRoy Healthy Farms & Habitats Officer
Julie MacMile Co-ord Graphics & Comms
Sharon Meredith Co-ord Wetlands & People
Peter Muirden REI Drainage Engineer
Michelle Mullarkey Field Officer (REI)
Allison Owens/Janine Neeling Admin Officer
Helen Parsons Project Support (H-W)
Paula Pownall RALF
Jesse Rowley Rivercare Officer
Pat Sutton Finance Support
Christine Townsend Co-ord Farmers for Fauna
Deb Tyler Administration Support
Kim Wilson Special Projects Officer

58 Partners

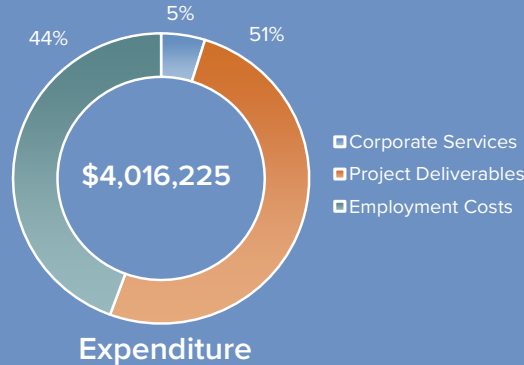
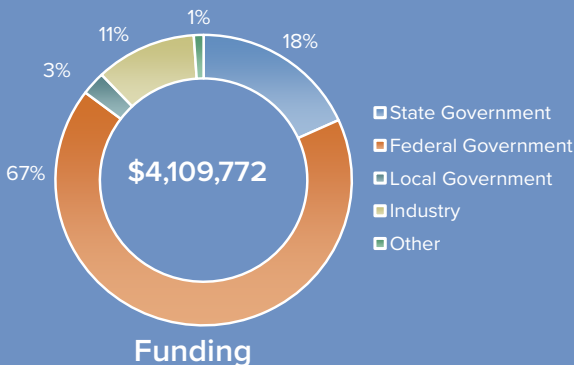
Associate | Investment | Delivery

Australian Government
Alcoa Foundation
BirdLife WA
Bindjareb Noongar Community
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) & Perth Zoo
Dept of Planning, Lands & Heritage
Friends of the Reserves Boddington (Inc.)
Friends of Rivers Peel
Friends of Lake McLarty
Greening Australia
Harvey River Restoration Taskforce
John Tonkin College
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 Boddington
NRM WA (7 WA NRM Regions)
Numbat Recovery Team
Peel Development Commission
Peel-Harvey Biosecurity Group
Project Numbat
Regional Development Australia (Peel)
Serpentine-Jarrahdale Food and Farm Alliance
South32 Worsley Alumina
Southern Dirt (Peel Hub)
The Nature Conservancy
University of WA
Urbaqua
WA Landcare Network
WA Local Government Association
Water Corporation
Wing Threads
Winjan Aboriginal Corporation
Wilman Noongar Community

2337 volunteers

A big thank you to our regular team of volunteers.

Financials



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

"...we are pleased to report there are no audit adjustments and no audit recommendations arising from our audit. There are few audits undertaken by us which result in minimal or no recommendations which is a credit to the commitment and preparedness of Jane, Karen and the team in achieving such an audit result." ~AMD Accountants~

