

Annual Report

2021-2022



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



With our guiding values of respect, trust, courage, open communication, integrity, and reflection PHCC moved strongly forward this past year delivering on our vision of people working together for a healthy environment.

I thank our professional staff who, despite the pandemic challenges have ensured we excel in the delivery of our commitments to

our partners in government and industry, but most of all for our community.

I thank our Board for its leadership, generosity, and commitment in busy times. I thank our community stretched across our vast patch from the agricultural lands, the forest and the coastal plain who understand the importance of protecting, restoring, and caring for our natural environment for future generations. Our community is increasingly better informed of the importance of productive landscapes with healthy diverse

ecosystems that contribute significantly to positive human mental, physical well-being and financial prosperity.

The recent Federal Government direction shows early promise in tackling carbon emissions, land conservation and addressing extinction rates which are long overdue. Our Northern Jarrah Forests is under alarming pressure and PHCC will continue to strongly support our communities' concerns for protection of our forests, with science and informed advocacy.

We are thrilled that after more than a decade of advocacy, our Estuary is no longer threatened by the Pt Grey Marina and Channel, which has, by law, now been extinguished. We are incredibly proud of this shared achievement, demonstrating the power of community.

We at PHCC are committed to continue supporting our community to protect and restore our beautiful Binjareb Boodja landscape we call home.

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

Regional Agriculture Landcare Facilitator (RALF)

Jul 2019 - Jun 2023

Aust Government [DAFF]
National Landcare Program

260 Volunteers 520 Hours
\$15,600 in-kind

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

- Supported 8 events, 5 Farmer Groups, 1 x Biosecurity Group, and through the Greening Farms project, engaged > 260 community members (incl. >123 in farming groups)
- The RALF (and Greening Farms Projects) enabled 148 landholders including; 20 farmers (20 on-ground project); 43 landholders (during 5 Field Days); 27 landholders (Farm Productivity group); 25 people (facilitating Peel Hub Southern Dirt) and 14 people (SJ Farm and Food Alliance)
- Supported 20 farmers with farm management surveys and one-on-one technical advice
- Supported 33 expressions of interest from farmers for on-ground works grants, with 20 successful in a competitive process

Greening Farms \$857,000

Jul 2019 - Jun 2023

Aust Government [DAFF]
National Landcare Program

6 Volunteers 24 Hours
\$840 in-kind

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

- \$142,783 of projects funded across 23 farms, attracting \$175,466 additional in-kind contributions for:
 - 15.8km fencing protecting 60 ha bushland
 - 20 ha weed control
 - 66,558 seedlings planted across 35 ha
- Supported 3 Regenerative Farming events SJ Farms and Food Alliance Food & Farm Fest (67 attendees) and Healthy Soil, Healthy Pastures, Healthy Horse – manure composting (14 attendees); and the Food & Farm Network's virtual Carbon Farming workshop (53 attendees)

Healthy Estuaries WA \$904,000

Dec 2020 - Dec 2024

WA Government [DWER]

98 Volunteers 452 Hours
\$15,820 in-kind

Driving action in the catchment to improve water quality and restore environmental balance of the estuary

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

- 2 stream restoration stock exclusion fencing projects completed (11 ha of riparian zones protected by 2.6km of fencing)
- 34 farmers participated in the Soil Testing program, receiving whole farm nutrient mapping and agronomic advice to manage fertiliser use on farms
- 5 farmer information sessions and workshops delivered
- 32 media and communication products distributed to stakeholders

Smart Farming Partnership (uPtake) \$90,000

Mar 2019 - Jun 2022

WA Government [DWER]

Using innovative technology and practices to build capacity and confidence in farmers to improve nutrient use efficiency on grazing farms

Goals 4, 5 & 6 Facilitating, Delivering, Engaging

- 36 participants attended a spring field day in Waroona, to see the results of fertiliser trials on pasture production
- 13 media and communication products produced and shared to the farming community to promote the science supporting nutrient response in pasture



Wetlands and People

\$4.99 million

Jul 2019 - Jun 2023

Aust Government
[DCCEEW]

National Landcare Program

597 Volunteers 1,155 Hours
\$40,425 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 our community's hearts and minds through educational, artistic and cultural events to be more involved in the care and protection of the Peel-Yalgorup Ramsar Site

- >3000 people attended 30 community engagement and education events
- >1000 people engaged across 3 days of events and activities for our the Wetlands Weekender festival
- Supported the Ambient Environmental Art of the Peel Region Exhibition at Contemporary Art Spaces Mandurah. 120 people attended the launch event and 857 people visited the exhibition
- 39 volunteers were trained in shorebird identification
- 81 volunteers across 25 teams identified 66 waterbird species and counted 42,603 waterbirds in the National Shorebird Count confirming the wetland's compliance with Ramsar Criteria 5 and 6
- 139 school students were engaged to learn about Ramsar 482 through 3 on-country excursions
- >350 volunteers removed 1900 kg of litter from waterways through 17 Clean Up the Peel Month events

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

- 19 sample sites representative of the 17 discrete waterbodies comprising the Yalgorup Lakes monitored monthly for water quality and levels, including comparison of historical data for Lake Pollard
- Convened the 20th Annual Meeting of the Ramsar 482 Technical Advisory Group
- Provided technical expertise to support the Saving Lake McLarty Project
- 11 groundwater monitoring bores and 'divers' installed at Lake McLarty and commenced monitoring
- Commenced Lake Clifton Water and Salt Budgets as Major Drivers of Thrombolite Survival with UWA to improve our understanding of groundwater/surface water interactions with respect to the Thrombolites, including 33 water sampling locations (electrical conductivity, dissolved oxygen, pH, temperature plus samples for ionic balance, nutrients, stable isotopes and water table levels and groundwater salinity profiles)
- 18 vegetation transects established in 2017 were re-surveyed and mapped to assess changes over time
- Science collaboration and monitoring projects and results presented to numerous audiences to raise awareness and determine management actions, guided by the science

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

- 51.5 ha protected to restrict illegal 4WD vehicle activity
- 350 ha initial works area in the Yalgorup National Park protected from feral pigs, foxes and rabbits
- 274 ha of follow-up feral animal control at previously treated Ramsar 482 bushland sites
- 105 ha of new areas within Ramsar 482 boundary protected by weed control and 123 ha of follow-up weed control in previously treated areas
- 26 ha of revegetation sites maintained
- 12 projects in partnership with private landholders and community groups achieving:
 - 20 ha feral pig, rabbit and fox control
 - 6.4 ha weed control
 - 1210 seedlings at Lake Clifton Seedling Giveaway



Saving Lake McLarty

\$350,859

2019 - 2022

WA Government
[State NRM]

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

- 9 groundwater level data loggers installed in selected bores
- 12 monthly groundwater and lake surface water levels and water quality measurements taken
- Lake McLarty Open Day held with over 200 participants
- Sediment, groundwater and surface water detailed site investigation report completed, with site management recommendations
- Flow augmentation study report completed

Healing Bilya

\$600,000 USD

Dec 2020 – Dec 2023

Alcoa Foundation

424 Volunteers 1062 Hours
\$37,170 in-kind

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

Goals 4, 5 & 6 Facilitating, Delivering, Engaging

- 9,483 stems planted over 14 ha across the Murray and Serpentine Rivers
- 2,250 ha of biosecurity control across the Murray and Serpentine Rivers
- River Health Assessments completed at 3 sites in the Murray River using aquatic fauna as indicators of river health
- 53 km of foreshore condition assessments completed as part of the Murray River Action Plan development
- 6 events engaging 454 people to increase skills, awareness and knowledge of values of our rivers

Science Integration

\$588,000

2018 – Oct 2022

WA Government [DPIRD]
City of Mandurah
PHCC

Employing 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

- 8 projects overseen to improve the ecological health of the Peel-Harvey Waterways
- On-going provision of scientific evidence of the fragility of the Peel-Harvey Estuary in respect to the Point Grey Marina development
- Presented at the 2022 Wetlands Conference to approx 240 delegates
- \$480,000 secured for the ongoing employment of a Science Advisor in the Peel Region
- Continued the program of school excursions with Greenfields Primary School into its 7th year and captured the experience in the short video "Wetlands and People – Learning by Experience"
- Convened the Healthy Estuaries Science Forum in Mandurah attended by 70 participants
- Oversaw the release of approx. 7600 aquacultured juvenile black bream into the Murray and Serpentine Rivers for a total release of approximately 10,000 fish over the past three years, completing the Estuary Grants Project

Water Research Infrastructure Project

\$500,000

Sep 2021 – Sep 2024

WA Government [DPIRD]

Providing research and community engagement infrastructure to support a co-ordinated effort to monitor and manage the Peel-Harvey waterways

Goals 4, 5 & 6 Facilitating, Delivering, Engaging

- Designed and had purpose built and equipped 1 x 4WD mobile laboratory vehicle
- Designed and had purpose built and equipped 2 x River Health Assessment trailers
- Designed and had purpose built and equipped 1 x Community Science Engagement trailers
- Commenced branding process



Numbat Neighbourhood

\$2.17 million

Jul 2019 - Jun 2023

Aust Government
[DCCEEW]
National Landcare Program

2 Volunteers 47 Hours
\$1,645 in-kind

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

Goals 5 & 6 Delivering, Engaging

- \$78,203 granted under Community Environmental Grants with landholder contributions of \$114,099, resulting in 108 ha protected, 9 km fencing, 5 ha revegetation and large scale feral animal control
- 52 feral cats and 90 foxes removed from private land around Dryandra National Park
- 51 attendees culled 173 foxes and 9 feral cats through Wandering Community Fox Shoot event
- 1,200 ha of wild rabbit control through RHDV1-K5 virus release
- 70 people attended workshops and training events including Numbat Dig ID and Dryandra Fauna Update
- 211 students and teachers attended Numbat Incursion with Project Numbat
- Continued monitoring feral and native species and mapping vegetation to ascertain habitat value
- Membership on Numbat Recovery Team and partnership with Perth Zoo's Captive Breeding Program
- 33 ha of bridal creeper and 9 ha of spiny rush control in the Shire of Cuballing
- Numbat dig and placing hollow logs into new wildlife corridor to provide refuge & food for numbats
- Planting native shrubs & quandong trees at Pumphreys Bridge with local Noongar community
- Supported Williams Wildlife Warriors after school program re Noongar culture in Dryandra

Protecting WA Black Cockatoos

\$380,000

April 2020 - June 2023

Aust Government
[DCCEEW]
Environmental Restoration
Fund

Supporting private landholders in the Peel-Harvey Catchment to manage and improve the habitat values of black cockatoo nesting and feeding sites

Goals 4, 5 & 6 Facilitating, Delivering, Engaging

- 7 ha remnant habitat on private tenure protected by controlling access
- 11 ha of farmland with Cockatoo habitat species revegetated and pests and weeds removed from 21 ha
- Communication materials produced including Youtube videos to increase awareness of the threats facing cockatoos and activities and actions landholders can do to prevent their decline
- 2 artificial nesting hollows installed with monitoring showing successful nesting in both
- 6 agreements with landholders to undertake on-ground works to benefit Black Cockatoo breeding
- Surveys identified 9 pairs of breeding Cockatoos (a 5 pair increase from confirmed baseline figures)
- 2 community education events held with 110 participants

A World for Woodlands

\$1.2 million

Jul 2019 - Jun 2023

Aust Government
[DCCEEW]
National Landcare Program

6 Volunteers 35 Hours
\$1,125 in-kind

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

Goals 4, 5 & 6 Facilitating, Delivering, Engaging

- 5 training/workshop events - 3 to build capacity and skills for Indigenous land managers
- >75 people attended the annual Lake Clifton/Herron Seedling giveaway, providing landholders with skills and knowledge to conserve Banksia Woodland on their property
- 7 one-one-one technical advice interactions and multiple communication materials published
- 3 km of fencing to exclude stock and pests from Woodlands; 5 structures installed; 10 habitat boxes installed
- 180 ha treated for pest control; 46 ha treated for weeds; and 6 ha treated for Phytophthora Dieback disease
- 6 agreements established to protect Woodlands; 2 Fauna Surveys and multiple flora surveys
- 3 days collecting and processing seeds; and 6 ha of habitat revegetated
- Continued vegetation condition and fauna monitoring (camera's set up at 6 separate properties)



H-W Rivers

\$500,000

Jan 2018 - Dec 2022

Newmont Goldcorp
Boddington

149 Volunteers 178 Hours
\$6,230 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

- Implementation of the Hotham-Williams River Action Plan commenced
- Continued employment support in the delivery of onground components of the Numbat Neighbourhood and Tunbridge Gully projects and the Hotham-Williams components of the Greening Farms and Black Cockatoo projects
- Continued representation on the Newmont Community Reference Group

Hotham-Williams Warlang Boodja

\$625,000

Apr 2021 - Jun 2025

South32

149 Volunteers 178 Hours
\$6,230 in-kind*

Implementing the Hotham-Williams River Action Plan and restoration projects in and around Boddington

Goals 5 & 6 Delivering, Engaging

- Restoration plans completed for 8 priority sites in the Hotham and Williams Rivers
- Low impact onground works commenced at 2 restoration sites
- Application for approvals for high impact on-ground activities such as bank stabilisation commenced
- Noongar consultation on project planning commenced as an important base on which project activities will be built
- Continued employment support in the delivery of onground components of Hotham-Williams projects

*in kind hours across both projects

Lake Clifton Conservation

\$248,500

2018 - 2022

CoM & SoW

5 Volunteers 30 Hours
\$1,050 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

Goals 4, 5 & 6 Facilitating, Delivering, Engaging

- 2 events delivered, Seedling Giveaway and Weed Workshop with Lake Clifton/Herron residents
- 4 editions of the "Lake Clifton Landcare Matters" newsletter delivered
- One Land for Wildlife site assessment, and 4 expressions of interest received for 2021/22 assessments
- Small grants provided for dieback testing, 18.2ha treated for Veldt Grass and rabbit control across 7 separate properties
- Commencement of new mapping and outreach project to encourage more Land for Wildlife applications
- Annual Report and presentations to City of Mandurah

Other Highlights

Governing, Securing, Influencing, Facilitating, Delivering, Engaging

- A decade of advocacy results in the Point Grey Marina and Channel Scheme Amendment being approved to remove the ability to put a 2.5km channel across the Estuary – removing this particular threat from our Estuary
- \$221,000 secured for Dryandra Woonta to reduce threats to numbats and chuditch through feral animal management (felixer trial, DNA analysis & more)
- Commenced Bindjareb Djilba (Peel-Harvey Estuary) Protection Plan agreement with DWER
- Bindjareb Boodja Landscapes (NRM Strategy) complete, launched and approved
- Commenced Business Case planning for 10 year restoration program
- Pinjarra Flora Trail project completed (with Shire of Murray, GP Forestry and the Winjan Rangers) to showcase culturally significant native flora
- Continued to support Friends of the Reserves – Boddington (Inc.) with the The Regeneration of Camballing Reserve and Surrounds
- Boddington Tunbridge Gully restoration project continued, inc. 73 volunteers planting 2,370 seedlings
- Commissioned the Peel Main Drain site by diverting water from the Drain through the treatment swales and preliminary trials of the effectiveness of the treatment



17 Members

Community

Caroline Knight* Chair
 Darralyn Ebsary Deputy Chair
 Marilyn Gray* Treasurer
 Paddi Creevey Secretary
 Sue Fyfe
 Peter Zurzolo*
 Claire Reid
 Amanda Batt
 Veronica Metcalf

Local Government

Rob Harris (Inland)
 Laurie Snell (Coastal)

Agency

Bob Pond Exec Comm. DWER
 Dr Rob Summers DPIRD
 Mark Cugley DBCA
 Andrew Ward PDC
 Nicholas Dufty DPLH (observer)
 Suzanne Brown WC (observer)

*Member Finance & Audit Comm.



64 Partners

Associate | Investment | Delivery

- Australian Government
- Alcoa Foundation
- BirdLife WA
- Bindjareb Noongar Community
- Clean Waterways Working Group
- Coastal Waste Warriors
- David Rennie
- Dept of Agriculture, Fisheries & Forestry (DAFF)
- Dept of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment & Water (DCCEEV)
- 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 (DPLH)
- Estuary Guardians
- Friends of Lake McLarty
- Friends of the Reserves Boddington (Inc.)
- Friends of Sapphire Cove
- Harvey River Restoration Taskforce
- John Tonkin College
- Lake Clifton-Herron Landcare Group
- Lake Mealup Preservation Society
- Landcare SJ
- Mandjoogoordap Dreaming
- Mandurah Environment & Heritage Group
- 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 (PDC)
- Peel-Harvey Biosecurity Group
- Project Numbat
- Regional Development Australia (Peel)
- Serpentine-Jarrahdale Food and Farm Alliance
- South32 Worsley Alumina
- The Nature Conservancy
- University of WA
- Urbaqua
- WA Feral Cat Working Group
- WA Feral Pig Advisory Group
- WA Future Food Network
- WA Landcare Network
- Water Corporation
- Wing Threads (Milly Formby)
- Winjan Aboriginal Corporation
- Winjan Bindjareb Boodja Rangers
- Willman Noongar Community

33 Staff

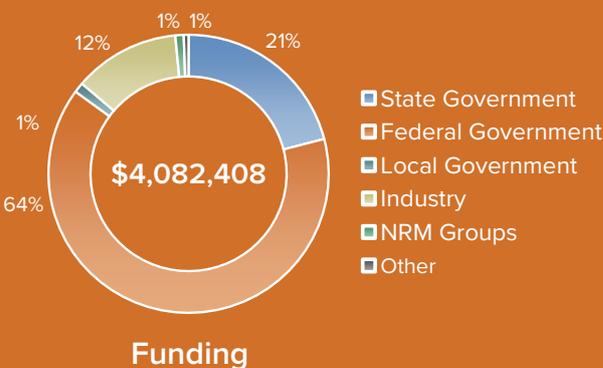
Jane O'Malley Chief Executive Officer
 Colleen Archibald GIS Co-ordinator
 Renee Barton Prog Mgr Healthy Rivers
 Kellie Beckwith Office Manager/Exec Support
 Jennie Beeson Wetlands Science Officer
 Karen Bettink Co-ord Land Conservation
 Victoria Brockhurst Admin Officer - Boddington
 Thelma Crook Co-ord Noongar Participation
 Mick Davis RALF
 Corrine Duncan Co-ord Land Conservation
 Mel Durack Ops Mgr Land Cons & Agriculture
 Steve Fisher Ops Mgr Science & Waterways
 Kristy Gregory Co-ord River Restoration
 Emily Hellor Project Support
 Mike Griffiths Wetlands Restoration Officer
 Karen Henderson Chief Finance Officer
 Rick James Co-ord Wetlands Science & Mgmt

Charlie Jones Co-ord Community Engagement
 Megan LeRoy Co-ord Healthy Farms & Habitat
 Austin Lilly HEWA Soil Test Support
 Rebecca MacKenzie Healthy Estuaries Officer
 Julie MacMile Co-ord Graphics & Comms
 Katy Montgomery Wetlands Restoration Officer
 Peter Muirden REI Drainage Engineer
 Michelle Mullarkey Project Support
 Janine Neeling Admin Officer - Mandurah
 Helen Parsons Project Support (H-W)
 Nicole Ramsay Finance Officer
 Jesse Rowley Healthy Waterways Officer
 Pat Sutton Finance Support
 Christine Townsend Co-ord Farmers for Fauna
 Kim Wilson Program Manager Ag
 Judy Dunlop Exec Officer WAFWCW

1547 volunteers

A big thank you to our regular team of volunteers.

Financials



Funding



Expenditure

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
- Shire of Murray
- Shire of Narrogin
- Shire of Pingelly
- City of Rockingham
- Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale
- Shire of Wandering
- Shire of Waroona
- Shire of Wickiepin
- Shire of Williams

"AMD Chartered Accountants have completed Peel Harvey Catchment Council's audit for the year ending 30 June 2022 and stated that our "financial report has been prepared in accordance with the Associations Incorporation Act (WA) 2015 and Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commissions Act 2012, giving a true and fair view" ~AMD Accountants"



PHCC is supported through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Program



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www.peel-harvey.org.au