

Annual Report 2022-2023



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 I reflect on the year that was I am in awe at all that has been achieved across our beautiful Catchment.

It is hard to believe we finished our five year Regional Landcare Partnerships with the Australian Government. Our RLP projects have seen the protection and enhancement of our Ramsar site through science, on ground works and community engagement. Numbat numbers are at a 30 year high thanks to work to manage feral cats and foxes and protect and enhance numbat habitat. Cockatoos have new hollows and food plants to feed themselves and their young, and we now know where they are breeding to focus future work. The condition of Threatened Communities, Banksia Woodlands and Claypan Wetlands have been improved. Our Greening Farms project has been a hit, helping with drought resilience and improving biodiversity on farms.

There is far too much to mention here so please have a look at our Wattle and Quoll e-newsletter for more detail, and beautiful letters from the team, telling about their experiences in delivering these projects.

I thank our wonderful staff who, despite many 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.

Special thanks need to go to our community. To the volunteers who give their time to protect and preserve our Catchment – to all of you a huge thank you. To our partners at all levels, thank you. I would like to particularly thank our Noongar community who work so positively with us with a shared vision of a healthy catchment. We are seeing emerging leaders rise to the challenge of working on country and we are proud to walk alongside you.

Our Northern Jarrah Forests continue to face alarming pressure and PHCC will continue to support our communities' concerns for protection of our forests, with science and informed advocacy.

We at PHCC are committed to continue supporting our community to protect and restore our beautiful Bindjareb Boodja landscape we call home. Let's hope for good decisions as we move forward so that we can heal our country, once and for all.

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

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

- 5 events supported (1 field day, 2 workshops and 2 events), engaging 599 community members directly, and a social media presence that reached nearly 50,000 people
- 5 farmer groups supported: Wandering Productivity Group, Western Beef Association, Grazing Matcher, SJ Food and Farm Alliance and the Peel-Harvey Biosecurity Group
- 7 farmers supported via farm management surveys and one-on-one technical advice
- Continued to support the PHCC Regional Officers group of environmental officers
- Information sharing and networking through regional, state and national networks using social media, email lists, newsletters, articles and event flyers

Greening Farms \$857,000

Jul 2019 - Jun 2023

Aust Government [DAFF]
National Landcare Program

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

- 10 on-ground Community Environmental Grant projects which led to planting 55,876 native plants (20,382 mixed biodiversity and 37,708 mixed saltbush species), and installation of 1.7km of fencing to exclude stock from 10ha of bushland
- 10 agreements signed with landholders to carry out long term monitoring (5 years) of completed Greening Farms project sites
- 143 landholders attended 4 events including Hotham-William saltbush field day, multi species ground cover workshop & 2 Equine Property Management workshops

Healthy Estuaries WA \$904,000

Dec 2020 - Dec 2024

WA Government [DWER]

Driving action across the catchment to improve water quality and restore environmental balance of the Estuary

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

- 17 farmers participated in the Soil Testing program, receiving whole farm nutrient mapping and agronomic advice to manage fertiliser use on farms
- 2 Sustainable Agriculture and 1 Riparian Management workshop delivered
- Stream Restoration Projects completed at three properties including 3kms of stock exclusion fencing and 1 ha of revegetation (4866 seedlings planted)
- 3 landholder agreements signed to undertake fencing (6.6kms) and revegetation (3.9ha) in place and works progressed
- 48 attendees to the 'Peel-Harvey Estuary Forum' with speakers from DWER, PHCC and Murdoch University

Bindjareb Djilba Protection Plan \$771,000

Dec 2021 - Dec 2025

WA Government
[Royalties for Regions]

Driving action across the catchment to improve water quality and restore environmental balance of the Estuary

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

- 17 farmers participated in the Soil Testing program, receiving whole farm nutrient mapping and agronomic advice to manage fertiliser use on farms
- 3 farmer information sessions and workshops delivered





Wetlands and People (Ramsar 482)

\$4.99 million

Jul 2019 - Jun 2023

Aust Government [DCCEEW]

National Landcare Program

543 Volunteers 1,057 Hours \$36,995 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

- 13 capacity building events and 15 awareness raising events with combined 1394 participants were delivered promoting the values, threats and wise-use of the Ramsar 482 wetlands
- 5 yearly Community Survey results show PHCC has achieved significant improvements relating to building awareness of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands
- 77 volunteers counted a total of 38,829 waterbirds with 28 shorebird species represented as part of the National Shorebird Monitoring Program, confirming the Peel-Yalgorup wetland's compliance with Ramsar Convention Criterion 5 and 6
- >280 volunteers removed >2860kg of litter from waterways through 20 Clean Up the Peel Month events

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

- Completion of scientific investigations to better understand the drivers of water and salt budgets as part of Lake Clifton Thrombolite Assessment project
- Follow-up indicator survey to investigate the breeding of the two species of cormorants in the Peel-Yalgorup Ramsar Site undertaken
- Peel-Yalgorup Ramsar site selected for case study for CSIRO led project for Climate-effective management for threatened species and protected places – NESP Climate Systems Hub Project. PHCC and DBCA brought together key stakeholders for Peel-Yalgorup Case Study workshop

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

- Improved management of land within and abutting the Ramsar Site 482 through controlling pest animals (937ha) and weeds (143 ha)
- A further 60ha pest animal control to support the Lake Mealup Preservation Society and supply of plants and materials to support the revegetation activities of the Friends of Samphire Cove

Healing Bilya

\$600,000 USD

Dec 2020 – Dec 2023

Alcoa Foundation

296 Volunteers 624 Hours \$21,840 in-kind

Improving the health, biodiversity and ecosystem services of the Murray and Serpentine Rivers

Goals 4, 5 & 6 Facilitating, Delivering, Engaging

- 2000 endemic sedges planted into the banks of the Serpentine River at Lowlands Nature Reserve and protected with 410m of fencing in partnership with DBCA
- >5000 seedlings planted in partnership with Shire of Murray at Cooleenup Reserve and at Ravenswood Reserve School Planting Day
- 5 Winjan Bindjareb Boodja Rangers engaged in watering services training, cultural knowledge sharing and planting activities
- 6 events engaging 454 community members to increase skills, awareness and knowledge of values of our rivers





Science Integration

\$480,000

Jul 2022 – Jun 2026

WA Government [DPIRD]
PHCC

Science Integration to enhance the health of the Peel-Harvey Estuary and Waterways and provide leadership for the incorporation of science into the management of the Catchment

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

- Projects overseen to improve the ecological health of the Peel-Harvey Waterways including UWA Lake Clifton Water and Salt Budgets as major drivers of Thrombolite Survival
- On-going provision of scientific evidence for the management and monitoring of our waterways, including WA Peel Harvey Estuarine Fishery Audit
- Contribution towards the Economic Valuation of the Waterways and Benefits Cost Analysis for our Waterways
- Continued program of school excursions and similar, including Dolphin Watch, Annual Estuary Forum and Friends of Samphire Cove
- Continued program of science and awareness to key decision makers, including on Bindjareb Djilba Committee

Gabi Bidi

(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

- Took delivery of three custom designed and built trailers, two for River Health Assessments and one for Community and Science Engagement activities
- Developed concept and awarded contract to detail design and construct the 'Tiny Lab' on Wheels

Numbat Neighbourhood

\$2.17 million

Jul 2019 - Jun 2023

Aust Government
[DCCEEW]
National Landcare Program
3 Volunteers 27.25 Hours
\$953 in-kind

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

Goals 5 & 6 Delivering, Engaging

- Project outcome of improved trajectory of the numbat population in Dryandra Woodland has been achieved
- \$35,442 granted under Community Environmental Grants with landholder contributions of \$37,351. 6km of fencing, over 100ha of on-farm habitat protected and 11ha of revegetation
- 120 feral cats and 74 foxes removed from private land around Dryandra National Park
- 65 attendees culled 219 foxes and 12 feral cats through Wandering Community Fox Shoot event
- 93 people attended workshops and training events including Woodlands for Wildlife Workshop, Weed ID and Control Workshop and Green Card training
- Partnership continued with DBCA to value add to Dryandra specific work including fauna survey, monitoring regimes & supporting feral free enclosures
- Membership on Numbat Recovery Team and partnership with Perth Zoo's Captive Breeding Program
- Supported Numbat Task Force for November Numbat Dryandra Drive Survey. 39 numbats recorded in the survey up from 5 sightings in the November drive survey in 2018
- 39ha of bridal creeper control in the Shire of Cuballing
- Important wildlife corridor completed near Boddington where a numbat was sighted and caught on camera
- Gathering and planting event at Koompkinning (Pumphreys Bridge) with Wilman Elders and community
- Matchstick banksia translocation near Popanyinning in partnership with DBCA. PHCC funded a dieback assessment of the property, fencing to protect seedlings and a water tank for reticulation





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

- 233ha of Black Cockatoo nesting and feeding habitat protected including TEC Eucalypt Woodlands of the WA Wheatbelt and Banksia Woodlands of the Swan Coastal Plain through 3.3km fencing, 15ha weed control, 5ha pest control, 101ha dieback management.
- Improving habitat at Black Cockatoo nesting sites through installation and refurbishment of 5 nesting tubes, and >7ha revegetation with food plants
- 6 landholder agreements developed and implemented to manage natural resources on private property for Black Cockatoos
- Undertaking breeding and exploration surveys to identify new nesting sites and confirm existing sites
- 2 community education workshops held with 51 participants

A World for Woodlands

\$1.2 million

Jul 2019 - Jun 2023

Aust Government
[DCCEEW]
National Landcare Program

4 Volunteers 5 Hours
\$700 in-kind

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

Goals 4, 5 & 6 Facilitating, Delivering, Engaging

- 5 training/workshop events – includes 2 capacity and skill building events for the Noongar Rangers
- 80 landholders and 9 community organisations attended the annual Lake Clifton/Herron Seedling Giveaway, providing landholders with skills and advice to protect Banksia Woodland on their property
- 260ha of pest control, 30ha of weed control and 2ha treated for Phytophthora dieback disease
- 3km fencing and 3 access control structures to exclude stock, pests and 4WDs from Woodlands
- 2 fauna nest boxes installed and monitored
- 3ha of degraded Woodland revegetated with native species
- 6 agreements established to protect Woodlands and 6 surveys to assess flora, fauna and weed distribution.
- On-ground works such as fencing, weed and pest control, revegetation and weed mapping occurred at 3 Clay Pan sites (Karu Bilya, Austin Bay Nature Reserve and Kooljerrenup Nature Reserve)

Dryandra Woonta

\$221,000

Mar 2022 - Apr 2023

Aust Government
[DCCEEW]
Environment Restoration
Fund

Providing critical management and knowledge gaps on the source and control of feral cats and foxes and the reduction of habitat in Dryandra Woodland to reduce threats to numbats and chuditch

Goals 5 & 6 Delivering, Engaging

- 13,250ha of feral species control by culling 24 feral cats, 36 foxes and 16 pigs in areas where there were gaps in existing control
- Felixer non-toxic trials across 15 sites determining felixers are likely to have an effective role in suppressing invasion of feral cats into Dryandra National Park, and reducing feral cat presence on agricultural land, in addition to other control techniques
- A feral cat genetics study completed where 176 tissue samples were sent for genomic sequencing, high quality genotypes were obtained for 135 individuals. Results will help guide future management actions
- Numbat Dig surveys on Dryandra satellite blocks
- Workshop in Dryandra Woodland held to share key learnings





H-W Rivers

\$500,000

Jan 2018 - Dec 2022

\$600,000

Jan 23 - Dec 27

Newmont Goldcorp
Boddington

7 Volunteers 24 Hours
\$840 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

- 4 events delivered focussing on increasing NRM skills and knowledge of the local community
- 4 planting events in Boddington natural areas and River Action Plan sites
- Targeted weed control at four River Action Plan sites
- 3 established community projects supported to enable the continuation of on-ground activities
- Continued representation on the Newmont Community Reference Group
- A new signed agreement to continue the project for a further 5 years

Hotham-Williams Warlang Boodja

\$625,000

Apr 2021 - Jun 2025

South32

22 Volunteers 30 Hours
\$1,050 in-kind*

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

Goals 5 & 6 Delivering, Engaging

- >80ha targeted weed control to encourage natural regeneration of riparian vegetation at four River Action Plan sites
- 5 workshops & training events to increase NRM skills and knowledge of the local community
- 5 restoration efforts in natural areas in and around Boddington
- 3 presentations and numerous other communication efforts for the benefit of the community
- Ongoing partnership and communication with Noongar Elders and those who speak for Country
- Continued representation on the South32 Mine Community Liaison Committee

*in kind hours across both projects

Other Highlights

Governing, Securing, Influencing, Facilitating, Delivering, Engaging

- Soil Wise agreement signed, 2 Soil Health workshops delivered and 5 farmers participated in a modified Soil Testing program, receiving whole farm nutrient reports and agronomic advice to manage fertiliser use on farms
- Sold Out WA Feral Cat Symposium #2 and WA Feral Cat Working Group new Executive Officer Appointed and Working Group making excellent progress
- Submitted our Tender to the Australian Government to deliver NLP3 in the Peel-Harvey (5 years)
- Continued to support Friends of the Reserves – Boddington (Inc.) with the Regeneration of Camballing Reserve and surrounds
- Continued to support the Lake Clifton/Herron community with seedling giveaway and Land for Wildlife Assessments
- Five year MOU with Shires of Boddington, Cuballing, Wandering and Williams was renewed 2027
- Collaboration for the protection of our Jarrah Forest via submissions and advocacy
- Completed Economic Valuation for our Waterways (with Peel Development Commission)
- Funding secured from Murdoch University for the Keep Carnaby's Flying Project in collaboration with Landcare SJ



14 Members

Community

Caroline Knight* Chair
Paddi Creevey Deputy Chair
Marilyn Gray* Treasurer
Peter Zurzolo* Secretary
Sue Fyfe

Amanda Batt
Veronica Metcalf

Local Government

Rob Harris (Inland)
Laurie Snell (Coastal)

Agency

Bob Pond Exec Comm. DWER
David Rowe DPIRD
Mark Cugley DBCA
Andrew Ward PDC
Nicholas Dufty DPLH (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 (DCCEEW)
- 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

32 Staff

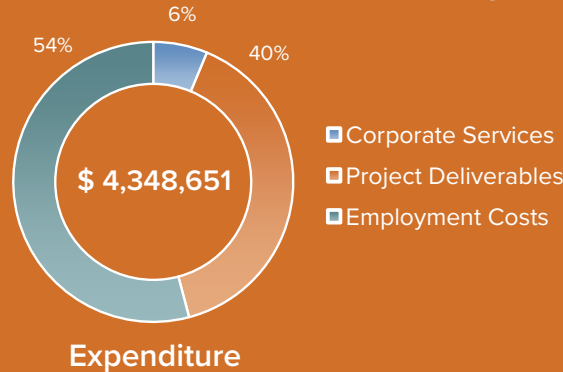
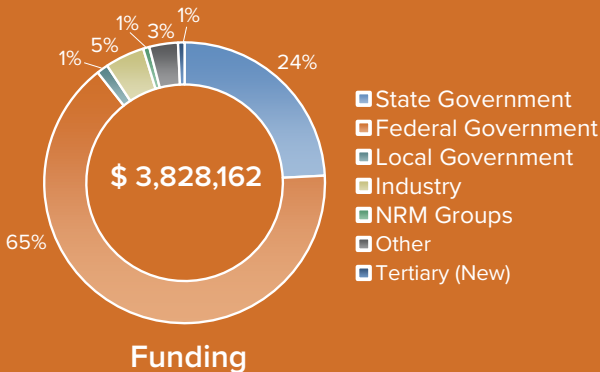
Jane O'Malley Chief Executive Officer
Colleen Archibald GIS Co-ordinator
Renee Barton Prog Mgr Healthy Rivers
Kellie Beckwith Office Manager/Exec Support
Jennie Beeson Wetlands Science Officer
Karen Bettink Co-ord Land Conservation
Victoria Brockhurst Admin Officer - Boddington
Mick Davis RALF
Corrine Duncan Co-ord Land Conservation
Mel Durack Ops Mgr Land Cons & Agriculture
Steve Fisher Ops Mgr Science & Waterways
Kristy Gregory Co-ord River Restoration
Karen Henderson Chief Finance Officer
Charlie Jones Co-ord Community Engagement
Megan LeRoy Co-ord Healthy Farms & Habitat
Austin Lilly Project Support Officer, Healthy Farms

Karen Lyons Coordinator Events and Engagement
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
Amy Williams Project Officer, Healthy Farms
Kim Wilson Program Manager Ag
Judy Dunlop Exec Officer WAF CWG
Gillian Bryant Exec Officer WAF CWG

870 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
- Shire of Murray
- Shire of Narrogin
- Shire of Pingelly
- City of Rockingham
- Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale
- Shire of Wandering
- Shire of Waroona
- Shire of Wickpin
- Shire of Williams

AMD Chartered Accountants have completed Peel Harvey Catchment Council's audit for the year ended 30 June 2023, 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 Commission Act 2012, giving a true and fair view."



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



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www.peel-harvey.org.au