

PHCC Chair's Report

General Meeting to be held on 16 June 2022

Welcome to our June meeting. This is the Nyoongar season of Makaroo, a time when the mob sheltered from the wet and cold. Our waterways and catchments are now starting to fill and the landscape is turning green, a particular delight for grazing animals such as kangaroos. The days are short and the nights long as we head towards the winter solstice.

Events and News

Funding and the election have dominated the last two months!

The recent State Budget announcement of \$480 000 for PHCC's Science Adviser is most welcome and a clear indicator of how Government views the importance of an evidenced based approach in achieving our vision of a healthy environment across our patch.

These four years of funding will allow our Dr Steve Fisher to continue his great work in ensuring better integrated science into the management of the Peel- Harvey Catchment.

Thank you to the ongoing support of Member for Mandurah David Templeman and The Peel Development Commission.

The City of Mandurah has also resolved to support the continued part funding of the Science Advisor in the amount of \$20 000 for four years, again a recognition of the significant economic prosperity linked to the health of the estuary and associated waterways.

The Federal election obviously dominated the month of May with climate change a significant concern for many across the country. Fabulous to see two senior politicians appointed across these significant portfolios, the Hon Tanya Plibersek MP the Minister of the Environment and Water and the Hon Chris Bowen MP the Minister for Climate Change and Energy. It renews optimism that the environment and climate change will receive significant attention.

October's budget will be interesting and this then leads into the next NLP round.

On the 23rd of May the seven NRM regions for Western Australia signed a memorandum of understanding to emphasis our ongoing commitment to work together cross-regionally to address critical NRM issues facing Western Australia. NRMWA is a collective forum which to help facilitate partnerships between the NRMs and with governments, community groups, the private sector, and philanthropists, to address environmental issues across Western Australia, including:

1. Enhancing Western Australia's biodiversity
2. Enhancing the ecosystems of the State's marine coastal and inland waterways
3. Advancement of sustainable agriculture

4. Integration of Traditional Ecological Knowledge into Natural Resource Management
5. Recognition and amelioration of the impact of climate change on all these processes

On the 20th of May Costa Georgiadis visited Mandurah in particular Samphire Cove Nature Reserve to film a story about our wetlands for Gardening Australia (GA). This opportunity came from our sponsorship and support for Milly Formby (Wingthreads) (see below). Our fabulous staff were on hand to provide facts and promote Ramsar Wetlands so PHCC will be on National TV soon! A big thank you to staff for what was a very long day but with national coverage a fantastic opportunity to highlight wetlands and the power of small community groups in helping to care for the land. We have been asked to not promote this filming until GA announce the episode.

Dr Jeff Bremer presented to PHCC on the 26th of May with a very engaging presentation titled “The Impact of Bauxite Mining on Our Jarrah Forests”. I found his commentary around young regrowth vegetation and its impact on the water table disturbing.

If you haven’t already had the chance to read “A Thousand Cuts” a publication by the WA Forest Alliance, Wilderness Society and CCWA it’s well worth it. Our Jarrah forests are a key part of a Global Biodiversity Hotspot that is under huge cumulative pressure and the primary cause of deforestation is bauxite mining. <https://wafa.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/A-Thousand-Cuts-NJF-Report-FINAL.pdf>

On an uplifting note, on the 2nd of June we hosted Milly Formby presented a Wing Threads event the evening before take-off on her incredible journey around Australia to highlight migratory shorebirds. Her story is fabulous, and we wish her safe travels as she flies around the country in a micro-light recreating the 20 000km distance that our migratory birds fly as part of their annual life cycle – with the PHCC logo on the wing. <https://wingthreads.com>

Warm regards

Caroline Knight