

ANNUAL REPORT

2016/2017



Thanks

PPG is an organisation run by solely by **volunteers**. It could not exist without the many self-motivated and dedicated members who donate their time, labour and money to protect and conserve our local environment. Non-active members are also immensely valuable. When individuals join together then the organisation can lobby and achieve so much more. Membership dues also provide practical support.

Thanks to the **City of Mandurah** for the use of their offices and furniture, the film grant and refreshments. We are very grateful to **Rotary Club of Mandurah** for funding membership leaflets and sustainability pledges. The **Waste Authority** generously provided a grant so that bags and pens with PPG's logo were funded. Thanks again to **David Templeman MP** for the use of his photocopier and donation from the yearly charity show.

Last but not least, a special thank you to outgoing Treasurer **Dave Thomas** for eight years of sound financial management. Dave is not leaving the organisation, just stepping down from the Treasurer position.

Deaths

On a sad note, we farewell two former stalwarts:

Shirley Joiner died after a long illness aged 71. She was a highly active volunteer for PPG for 16 years as well as several other community organisations.

Kath Malta was a long-time member and former secretary of PPG. She was active in the Creery Wetlands campaign in the 1990s and was also a shire councillor. Kath lived for 96 years.

Meetings

PPG continued to meet at regular intervals. Coffee meetings were held once per month at Mandurah Quay in Erskine. Here agenda items were collated between munching of cake, slurping of coffee, some networking and general socialising.

Committee meetings were held monthly at the PPG office in Mandurah. Despite the name, not all attendees were committee members as active and interested members were also welcomed.

In addition the office was open to the public on Monday mornings with the Treasurer and administration volunteers in attendance. A stream of members popped in to help with campaigns, pick up / drop off equipment and offer moral support.

Events

A major event was the 2-day Stretch Festival. Mel Tuckey and his able assistants manned a stall and chatted with passers-by. Children participated in a competition to label and colour-in wild orchids. Whilst they were being entertained they were also being educated.

Plastic Free July continued to be a big event this year. There was a stall at Halls Head Shopping Centre, two free showings of the film "Plastic Oceans" and an emphasis on children's education. Many sustainability pledges were signed. Giveaways included calico bags and pens.

Submissions

Mel Tuckey drafted lots of submissions on our behalf, incorporating feedback from other committee members. Some of these were on "hot topic" environmental planning matters that PPG are vehemently opposed to. Others were in support of good policies. Here is a selection of submissions, but in fact there were more because members often did their own as well:

- **29 Nov 2016:** Fraser's Landing Coodanup Management Plan
- **Jan 2017:** Revitalisation of Pinjarra Town Centre
- **24 Mar 2017:** 600 Lakes Rd, Nambeelup
- **18 Jul 2017 & 11 Sep 2017:** opposing proposed marina at Point Grey
- **24 Jul 2017:** supporting Ban on single-use plastic bags
- **22 Aug 2017:** stakeholder application for Nambeelup Business Park
- **7 Sep 2017:** opposing liquid waste disposal at Tim's Thicket, Dawesville
- **3 Oct 2017:** supporting road closures at Yalgorup National Park

Water Quality Testing

Koby Anderson did our water quality testing mostly around Black Lake, Geogrup Lake and Serpentine River – important sites in the catchment area for the Peel-Harvey Estuary.

Partnerships

We have had a partnership with **The Glass Jar**, a wholesale food store in Halls Head. Customers reduce the amount of waste they generate by bringing their own reusable containers.

The store advertised Plastic Free July and the movie poster plus put PPG calico bags on the counter for their customers to take. Mel has been in demand to take wildflower and **orchid walks**. **John Tonkin College** shared movie hire costs with us and butcher **Rodney Robinson** distributed our bags, pens and membership forms.

A lot of networking with other local environmental organisations took place, resulting in information being quickly shared. PPG members often bump into each other whilst participating in other local environmental events. Events have been cross advertised with like-minded groups (for example, tree plantings and beach clean-ups).

Activities

Administration: shared between various committee members

Grant Applications, Website & Newsletters (now fully digital!): Linda Thorpe

Kids' Education: Barbara Sing & Jo Drew

PR & Events: Les Hodgson, Coral Richards, Caroline Knight and Stewart Godden

Social Media/Facebook: Barry Small

Submissions: Mel Tuckey

Treasurer: Dave Thomas

Water Quality Testing: Koby Anderson

Mandurah Volunteer Dolphin Rescue Group is an organisation in its own right that is sponsored by PPG, i.e. PPG helps with administration. Various donations have been received and equipment purchased.

Struggles

It is a great concern that intermittent fish deaths continue to occur, sometimes by the thousands.

The committee and a few general members were very active but as this is a relatively small group of people it restricted how many activities we could be involved in.

Advertising

Local newspapers and radio stations were asked to advertise our events in their free community sections. There has been mostly no response except we were well-supported for the Annual General Meeting.

Coming up

The constitution will be updated to comply with new rules for charitable not-for-profit organisations. A focus on reducing single-use plastics will continue.

Prepared by Susanne Godden