



2018 Annual Report

About PPG

Founded in 1976, PPG's aim is to conserve and protect the natural environment of the Peel Region and also to support other conservation organisations throughout Western Australia. Anyone who supports these aims is eligible to join. PPG is a not-for-profit organisation, holds a charitable licence and is run solely by volunteers.

Thanks

City of Mandurah

The City helps PPG with the use of an **office** and **some of the furniture**. They are also allowing us to use the **Tuckey Room** for our Annual General Meeting. Many thanks to **Janneke Greenham** for her time spent helping us with the room and the **tea and coffee** provided by the City.

Video to digital grant: PPG received a grant from the City so that video tapes of the organisation's history and the Peel region can be salvaged and put into a digital format before completely degrading. The intention is to show this at public events to help people understand what PPG does, and to encourage them to take an interest in the local environment and join PPG.

With the **sea bins** project, the City has agreed to do the **installation**, provide **power** and pay for any **maintenance** required. Particular thanks to Environmental Services and the Marina department. City staff will mostly be doing the **emptying** of the bins as part of their job because they are already on site, with occasional help from PPG (more on this project later).

David Templeman, MP for the annual donation from his Christmas Charity Show and for supporting PPG to obtain a **State Government** grant via the **Peel Development Commission** towards the sea bins project.

Parkland Villas Retirement Village, Halls Head

The Villas gave PPG the opportunity to present to its residents and made a donation.

Peel Senior Net

This organisation helped seniors learn computing skills. On closing it donated its leftover funds to PPG. This is a great example of a local community organisation helping another.

Rotary Club of Mandurah

Thank you for the long-term support.

PPG Members

Thanks to all members for their interest in supporting the environment by joining and paying a modest membership subscription. Regardless of whether you are able to volunteer your time and effort as well, this allows the organisation to pay its basic costs such as stationery and necessary insurances. The more members PPG has, the more attention is paid to what PPG has to say. Thanks also to several members who made donations in addition to their membership subscriptions.

PPG Committee

It has been a pleasure to work and socialise with such a kind, friendly, dedicated, self-motivated and supportive group of people towards our common goal. A lot of cooperation has taken place and much has been achieved.

Thanks to outgoing committee member Diane Louw for her contributions to the decision-making process and help with events such as teaching kids how to make fairy tern models at the Stretch Festival. Diane has often stepped into the “revolving chairperson” position to facilitate committee meetings and is especially commended for turning up so often despite significant travel. Diane, along with Barbara Sing, took on PPG’s administration following the death of former Secretary and stalwart Shirley Joiner. Without this help the organisation could not have continued. Diane remains a member.

Special thanks to past Treasurer Dave Thomas for helping current Treasurer Ahmed Zilani with the finances this year and also for mentoring me, Secretary Susanne. As one of our longest-serving committee members, Dave is frequently called upon for knowledge from the organisation’s history. Although now stepping off the committee he remains a member.

Meetings

Committee Meetings

PPG continues to hold a committee meeting at **6 pm on the first Thursday of each month**. These are held at the **Parents Place, 63 Ormsby Terrace, Mandurah**.

Coffee meetings occur at **2 pm on the Saturdays before the committee meetings**. There was a change of venue from Mandurah Quay in Erskine because the restaurant closed to the public, except for functions such as weddings. PPG now caffeinates at **Nourishing the Soul Café, 40 Darwin Terrace in Dudley Park**. As well as providing good food, drinks and service, the café has a nice view of a small marina where dolphins sometimes come. The café was already helping Dolphin Rescue with a counter tin so we decided to support them.

Events

Stretch Festival

PPG again participated in the annual Arts festival in the environmental section.

Kids: Young children made models of endangered fairy terns that they could hang up or take home and did a Turtle Watch colour and cut activity. Enviro posters were on display created by school children following a local event in the samphire marshes.

Sea bins: Project information including photographs was displayed.

Milly Formby/ Wing Threads: PPG publicised Milly's ambitious project to fly an ultralight from Australia to Siberia following the migration path of shore birds. This is planned to start in a few years but Milly has already obtained her pilot licence and has been going around Australia to raise awareness about the need for many countries to cooperate and protect shore birds.

Plastic Reduction: Several hundred PPG-logo calico bags were handed out to educate about the need for plastic reduction and to provide an alternative to plastic bags. Volunteers also took the opportunity to connect with members at events and to network with co-located environmental stall-holders.

Clean-up Australia Day: Many committee members participated in this annual event by joining other groups at various Peel locations including rivers, beaches and parks.

Parkland Villas Retirement Villas Presentation

Ron Glasson gave a **power-point presentation** and spoke about what PPG does, including its current activities and its history. He touched on evolving environmental law and other local environmental groups such as Dolphin Rescue and Bouvard Coast Care. Mel Tuckey spoke about **wild orchids**, supported by a slide show. PPG attendees then mingled with residents over a morning tea provided by the Villas.

Meeting with the Mayor

Four members of the committee met with City of Mandurah Mayor Rhys Williams and with Deputy Mayor Caroline Knight to discuss environmental matters.

Submissions

- **Australia's Biodiversity Strategy**
- **Conservation Advice for Tuart Wetlands**
- **Shire of Murray Point Herron Management Plan**
- **Shire of Murray Natural Landscapes in Urban Areas (draft local planning policy)**
- **Second submission re banning plastic straws and balloons.**
This became the subject of an article and photo in the local paper.
- Letter of protest **against Department of Environment budget cuts, particularly the threatened species division**

- **Submissions against the Point Grey Marina:** We re-circulated our previous submission with a covering letter. Alas the Environment Minister has endorsed the Environmental Protection Agency's recommendation to extend the time limit for substantial commencement of the 2.5 km channel until 1 Aug 2022.

Activities

Bins in Mandurah Shopping Areas: Stewart Godden

Bouvard Coast Care Group Representative: Ron Glasson

Facebook: Barry Small

Kids' Education: Barbara Sing & Jo Drew

Newsletters (digital): Vacant

Sea bins: Stewart Godden leads the working party of Les Hodgson, Ahmed Zilani and Rex Warne. The bins were invented by two Aussies and are in place at many international marinas but are only now starting to be installed in Australia. They are barrels of about 2m in size that are attached to a dock and float up and down with the tide. They work like a swimming pool skimmer box where floating rubbish is drawn into the net inside. The bins need to be attached to power and emptied regularly. Their main benefit is probably education as analysis of items caught can be fed back to the community. They are also a good opportunity to get kids involved. PPG has ordered two.

Secretary: Susanne Godden

Submissions: Mel Tuckey with input from the committee

Treasurer: Ahmed Zilani

Water Quality Testing: Koby Anderson

Website: Linda Thorpe

Events: Les Hodgson and Rex Warne. Rex and Les also researched and obtained PPG-logo hats and caps for the group. By the way they are available to buy at \$10 each! Les liaised with speleologists about local caves and made the committee aware of them. Rex is the author of PPG's new slogan "Eco action since 1976".

Grants: Research and applications were done on various potential grants this year by several committee members and two were successfully applied for, relating to sea bins and the video-to-digital project. This position is currently vacant.

Partnerships

Interchange

Interchange is a provider of community-based disability support and services.

For three months at two hours per week PPG has been providing office work experience for a young person with a slight disability and this will continue until mid-December.

Mandurah Volunteer Dolphin Rescue Group

PPG continues to auspice/sponsor Dolphin Rescue, which is a separate volunteer not-for-profit group. So that they can continue to focus on their core business and keep costs down, PPG (as an incorporated entity) supports them by doing some Dolphin Rescue administration.

Dolphin Rescue has two boats, equipment and two trailers to carry these. Several volunteers have their skippers' tickets. A Dolphin Watch app was launched this year where community members can log in via phone and record sightings. Public dolphin forums are being regularly held.

Sadly dolphins continue to strand on sand banks, particularly during low tides, suffering sunburn and in some cases death. A drone is now being employed to help with monitoring.

Kids Teaching Kids

PPG supplied calico bags to support this environment and sustainability program.

Mandurah Environmental Volunteers Action Committee

Committee members regularly attend the monthly MEVAC meetings as a way of keeping abreast of local happenings and volunteering opportunities. Attendees participated in "around-the-table" summaries of what their respective organisations were doing and heard presentations aimed at capacity building.

Urban Bushland Council and Conservation Council of WA

As a member group of these organisations PPG receives event invitations, the latest news from Perth and WA and generally supports their activities.

Bouvard Coast Care Group, Mandurah Heritage and Environment Group, Friends of the Rivers Peel, Friends of Samphire Cove Nature Reserve, Mandurah and Pinjarra Canoe Trail Friends, Mandurah Tree Advocates

Some committee members of PPG are also active members of these organisations.

Membership

Following the death of Secretary Shirley Joiner, PPG went through a period of flux. The administration was jointly carried out by three people, and newsletters had to stop. When the new secretary settled into the role, minutes of meetings re-started to the general membership in an attempt to re-engage.

PPG receives newsletter updates from the Lake Meallup Preservation Society, the Wetland Conservation Society and the Urban Bushland Council which we are starting to pass on. Letters were sent inviting all members to this meeting, which was also publicised in the local paper. Renewal invitations were sent to those whose membership would be lapsing at this meeting. PPG has a Facebook page and a website: <http://peelpreservation.org.au>

Struggles

In common with many other community groups, the amount of volunteers once again impacted on PPG's ability to act. Reading through the past year's Minutes to get a recap of everything PPG has been doing, it became clear there were many good ideas that PPG did not have the capacity to follow up on. Nevertheless much has been achieved.

A revamp of the constitution is still on the cards, to align with the new law. This must be lodged by mid-2019. A working party needs to be formed which will include the secretary. We have been aware of this for some time but once again volunteer capacity has impacted.

Recently we had difficulties with the office computer, resulting in many extra hours of work for Ron, Stewart and Susanne but these have now been resolved. The software has been upgraded; anti-virus security protection is in place and regular back-ups are occurring.

It has also proved difficult to find an affordable auditor. We are still looking for one.

The Future

For years PPG has had a focus on plastic reduction and we wish to continue this, especially living near the ocean, estuary and rivers with their large catchment zone. Plastic and marine animals and birds can be a deadly combination. A friend recently told me the image of a turtle with a straw up its nose is not one she will ever forget and she hasn't touched a plastic straw since. Not to mention the impact on humans as apex predators who are now ingesting micro-plastics. Logically our activism may extend to micro-beads.

Continuing input into planning procedures such as the Plastic Bag Ban, the Container Deposit Scheme and Waste Management is the way we want to go bearing in mind that "prevention is better than the cure". PPG's project on bins in Mandurah shopping areas falls into this category as it aims to raise awareness and find solutions to the largely preventable litter problem, made worse by coastal winds that blow much light rubbish into the waters. The considerable research done shows that while there are bins in the shopping areas, sometimes there could be more of them or they could be placed in better positions. But the real problem is that there are virtually no recycling bins available to the public and PPG is seeking to gather support from other environmental groups to pursue this.

One of PPG's strengths has been its links to other environmental organisations and we will continue to network, share information and cross-publicise events.

In the immediate future, a group of PPG members are booked to go to David Templeman's Cheap & Dodgy Productions Christmas Charity Show on 9 December and I'm sure we're all looking forward to that.