

2010 report

PEEL PRESERVATION GROUP INC. ANNUAL REPORT DECEMBER 2010

In order to prepare Peel Preservation Group's Annual Report, it was the necessary to re-read the minutes of the committee meetings and other PPG activities. It has been interesting to do so.

Traditionally January is our "holiday" month and this year was no different but we have been busy since then.

We proudly unveiled our new retractable banner at Crabfest and the Lake Clifton Festival. It has been much admired and we thank the Mayor's Moscow Circus Charity event for the funds that enabled its purchase. It is a vast improvement on some of the makeshift efforts of the past.

This year our committee and members have attended the week-long Community Reference Group sessions for the Panorama Development, south of Dawesville. Shirley Martin bravely attended all sessions and various others of us attended several, listening to the developer's vision and giving our input. We hope they will consider the comments, as, though we liked some aspects of the project, some were less environmentally sound. It will be interesting to see the final plans when they are presented for public comment.

Southern Gateway Alliance also held Community input sessions to deal with matters concerning the Mandurah Entrance Road, now known as Manjoogoordap Road (if you can get your tongue around it) and to discuss "legacy" projects to mitigate for damage to Marlee Reserve. Several of us attended meetings and made comments but were somewhat disappointed with the final outcome. Guess we have to console ourselves with the fact that it would probably have been worse if we had not been in there fighting for that important, if slightly scarred, reserve.

Lots of submissions have been written, mostly with internet consultation between members and other environmentalists. Dave calls into the office regularly on Monday mornings to give his input then (we really do have to get him "Computerised"! ). The list includes Lake Clifton Development Proposal (Sarich); Mandurah Junction; a Park Home Proposal at Lake Clifton; Brewery and Winery Proposals at Lake Clifton and comments on the Scoping Document for the Pt Grey Development Proposal (we are still awaiting the Outline Development Plan for public comment).

As a result of the all the development proposals in Lake Clifton area, we wrote to the Ministers for the Environment (old and new) with our concerns about the fragility of the lake, Thrombolites and the area's classification as a "threatened ecological community".

Our voice was added to other environmentalist in comment on proposed changes to the Environmental Reform Bill – some of which alter the right of "third Parties" such as PPG to appeal some decisions and do not meet our approval.

Thanks to Dick Rule and his team from Birds Australia the survey of birds in the Goegrup and Black Lakes area has been completed. Marion Timms (with help from Nancy Fardin) has conducted a thorough flora survey of the area, as a new data base for inclusion in the update of the book "The Waterbirds of Goegrup and Black Lakes in the Peel Inlet Region". After one final proof reading it will be ready for the printers and also to put onto the website.

Water testing continues to be done by Teresa Hey at Lake McLarty, by Shirley Martin at Lake Clifton, by Jess Thompson & Tegan Matheson at Goegrup Lake and by Peter & Pat Reynolds at Black Swan Lake. This valuable effort adds to the Water Resources Data Base and helps reveal changes and trends.

The Lecture Series have continued. PPG Co-hosted a fascinating presentation by Dr Brian Chambers of UWA titled "Fauna Marlee and Paganoni". Dr Chambers and his team discovered a Chudditch, two Brush tailed Phascogales, Southern brown bandicoots and possums as well as turtles and reptiles (and foxes! – several of which were trapped). A team of respected amateur Speleologists gave a presentation to a surprisingly large audience, thanks to Marion Timms spreading the word. I think we, now, all know what

“Karst” is (see article in recent Preservation times). The most recent was a very informative workshop by the Environmental Defender’s Office and World Wildlife Fund. We gained lots of information on how to prepare more effective submissions.

Thanks to Graeme Wyatt we now have a snappy updated website. As time goes on we will review and add to the material on the site. We are considering ways to include a “Current Events” page which will be updated more regularly.

Applications were made for grants for display equipment (portable display board, table etc) and fox control at Marlee Reserve. Unfortunately both were unsuccessful.

Nancy was heavily involved in assisting with rabbit control measures at Lake Clifton. Several members helped out at a planting Day at Lake McLarty where hundreds of reeds were planted to replace the invasive Typha (Bullrush) which is clogging up this vital wetland – one of the few freshwater sources for birds in the Ramsar listed area.

Thanks to our Editor-in-Chief and various contributors, we have produced the quarterly editions of the Preservation Times. It is gratifying to get feedback from readers who say they enjoy the articles. Any member or friend is welcome to submit articles or “Letter to the Editor” for inclusion in the newspaper.

We helped a post graduate university student with research for her work comparing the Environmental Assessment process, comparing South African examples with about the Creery Wetland “saga”. Several of our longer serving members assisted a researcher who is assembling an oral history of the environmental movement in WA and wanted to include a section about PPG and Len Howard.

Several PPG members serve on the Mandurah Environmental Advisory Group and hope that this will be a fruitful contribution.

In all it has been a very full year.

Wish to thank retiring committee members John & Linda Frings who have moved to Kerikaan Cockatoo Centre in Gosnells and whose knowledge as wildlife rescuers and Linda’s support in the office will be missed; Maureen Campbell who, with Ross’s support has been a regular and stalwart member and Lyn Dickman, long time treasurer, proficient grant writer and contributor of very salient points to submissions. Each of these people has brought their own unique contribution to the Peel Preservation group team. We thank them all for their tremendous support.

Shirley Joiner December 2010