

Annual Report Peel Preservation Group for AGM 11.11.2011

Although it is just a couple of weeks short of 12 months from our last AGM, it feels like much less how time flies!

In some ways this has been a slightly trying year for PPG, with a member retiring soon after the start of our new year and a couple more being out of action for various reasons for part of the year, but regardless the review of the year's activities shows we have had a very full year.

True to form, a number of submissions have been prepared and dispatched.

- Centro Extension Halls Head – we asked for a formal EPBC assessment because of the number of black cockatoo foraging trees that would be lost in the clearing.
- Mandurah Junction – which was also referred for EPBC assessment because of the quality of the trees and vital habitat that would be lost. The proposal had allowed for extra allowance for public open space and approval has been given for the development but 175 trees are to be retained as is just under 4Ha of foraging and potential breeding habitat for the black cockatoos.
- Terrestrial component of Pt Grey Development Proposal – which has been approved with some requirements for additional areas of coastline and areas on the limestone ridge to be reserved.
- Mangles Bay Development Proposal – which is, in our consideration far too close to Lake Richmond with its Threatened Ecological Community (thrombolites).
- PWR Quarries at Lake Clifton - followed by an appeal against the clearing, all of which are alarmingly close to the Lake's Threatened Ecological community. How do we stress to Developers, the importance of the Thrombolites? How do we protect them?
- Pt Grey Marina and channel proposal – which has been a major effort with two public information sessions and numerous letters to politicians whose portfolios are concerned in aspects of the proposed development and its effect on the estuary.
- Draft Terms of Reference Strategic Environmental Assessment Perth/Peel – which is a suggested change to the way these assessments are done. We will be closely watching developments and continue to comment as the stages of planning the proposed process continues.

Peel Preservation Group has applied, with varying success, for Grants for –

- SWCC Red Card for Fox Control for Marlee Reserve which was successful and enabled us to engage a Feral Animal exterminator to track for foxes in the Reserve. Although a domestic dog and several feral cats were caught, no foxes were photographed or caught. Perhaps this is good news. Subsequent reports by Prof. Brian Chambers show that possums and bandicoots are returning to the Reserve.
- Dept of Environment to build a Bird Hide at Lake McLarty was disappointingly unsuccessful since a local contractor had agreed to do much of the work at a greatly reduced cost and the hide is a long overdue resource for the Lake's birdwatchers.
- City of Mandurah \$500 annually (ongoing) towards Preservation Times printing costs, which has been a great help in enabling us to continue producing our quarterly newsletter.
- GVESHO (Environment) grant application for office costs which was unsuccessful.
- Lotterywest for IT equipment which was successful and has provided a Computer, printer, programs and office furniture. The office is now a joy to behold and use.

In more "Hands On" activities we have

- Added an interactive page to the website where updates, news and comments can be posted – thanks to Graeme Wyatt.
- Continued to monitor Marlee Reserve for foxes – if any are seen we will notify the Feral Animal Exterminator. We appeal to anyone who walks in the area and sees feral animals to report to us or the City of Mandurah. It is also pleasing that members living or walking on Marlee Reserve are regularly noting both White and Red Tailed Black cockatoos. Dave is submitting "Regular Observation" details and if anyone notices where they roost at night, we would be glad to know.

- Launched the updated version of the book “The Waterbirds of Goegrup and Black lakes in the Peel Inlet Region” at a very successful function which included a presentation by Birds of Australia members. This is the third edition and represents over 20 years of observations.
- Assisted Lake Clifton Landcare with planting to revegetate an area of the lake side over several days (a great team effort). It was pleasing to find the lakeside soil damp with showers at fortuitous times and we believe survival rates are good.
- Continued water testing at Lakes Goegrup, Black Swan and Clifton – especial thanks to Tegan & Jess. Shirley Martin has had to retire from the task of water testing at lake Clifton because of her health but we are really glad that Gianni Fardin has volunteered to continue this valuable task.
- Supported Symbiotica in trying to get world Heritage listing for Lake Clifton.

We have also updated our Constitution to bring it in to line with modern requirements. This was a bit of a comedy of errors, with the first effort needing further alterations and the second effort being lost in the post and being returned several weeks later in a very shabby condition (fortunately with cheque still intact. It was a case of third time lucky!

PPG continues to publish the Preservation Times regularly, as mentioned with support from City of Mandurah and thanks to Editor Coral for her expertise and even illustration on occasions.

Every committee member has contributed to the Group’s goal and their efforts are greatly appreciated – we have a great team.

As we go into elections for 2012 year, it is hoped to find someone to share our vision and join our endeavours, being aware of how much can be achieved by email in the comfort of ones home.