

4 November 2021 AGM Dolphins Report

Prepared by Sally Kirby

Mandurah Volunteer Dolphin Rescue Group has been very fortunate to be sponsored by Peel Preservation Group Incorporated over the last 12 months, and many years prior.

This has enabled us to continue our efforts trying to increase responses to the resident dolphins when they are stranded or entangled and also educate the public on keeping our waterways clean.

Unfortunately Mandurah has lost at least 13 dolphins since the last AGM including

2 from fishing line entanglement

2 from stranding

At least 2 from morbillivirus

3 were elder dolphins and

2 newborns disappeared

There has never been a greater need for more assistance to our dolphin population and we greatly appreciate the support PPG has given us to keep trying.

This support has allowed us to receive a grant from Rotary Club of Mandurah for identifying hats and shirts, produce an educational video for the community on the need to protect our dolphins, and work on updating our website. Our thanks go to Rotary for the support!

As well we were the grateful beneficiaries of a grant from the State Government under the Small Grants Program 2021 through nomination by Honorable David Templeman MLA of \$5000 plus GST towards equipment over the next three years. We gratefully appreciate this generous support from Minister Templeman and the State Government.

Special thanks to Nourishing the Soul Cafe for their ongoing support and generous donations, and the community who have supported us with donations, including through the Containers for Change Refund Scheme.

Throughout the year we have been very busy monitoring the dolphin population, keeping regular photographic and written records, and liaising with Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions on sick, stranded or deceased dolphins located.

At times this also included retrieving deceased dolphins so they could go to Murdoch University for necropsy.

We have continued our education sessions to the younger generations with voluntary kindergarten and school visits, as well as attended numerous community environmental events in Mandurah over the year.

We also continued our community education through our social media page “Estuary Guardians Mandurah” and warmly invite anyone to join our page at @estuaryguardians if not already.

We participated in as many community cleanups as possible, including being a co-host of the annual Reel It in Luca’s Legacy clean up held in October each year at both Dawesville and Creery Wetlands locations.

We continued to be the local coordinators for the Reel It In Fishing line bins in Mandurah with a wonderful group of dedicated volunteers who empty them on a regular basis.

We are pleased to announce City of Mandurah have agreed to install 5 more fishing line bins, bringing our City’s total to 25.

We also joined with other community groups and City of Mandurah to be part of the Clean Waterways campaign, which produced 5 educational videos on this subject, shown widely on social media.

We cannot thank Peel Preservation Group enough for the support and encouragement you have given our little group, it means the world to us.