

# PEEL PRESERVATION GROUP ANNUAL REPORT 2021

Prepared for the 4<sup>th</sup> November 2021 Annual General Meeting by Secretary Deborah Hay.

## ABOUT US

Peel Preservation Group was founded in 1976 by some volunteers who were passionate about conservation, particularly of the local natural environment. In 2021 we are still working to protect and conserve the habitat for native plants and animals of the Peel region, and encouraging peoples' appreciation and education about these. A major part of our current work is auspicing the Mandurah Volunteer Dolphin Rescue Group and overseeing the finances for their activities.

To a slightly lesser extent, PPG also gets involved in environmental issues from outside the region, particularly when they could eventually have an effect on the Peel.

PPG consists solely of volunteers, and is run democratically by a committee. As a not-for-profit incorporated association, PPG holds a charitable collections licence. We are also group members of the Urban Bushland Council, the Conservation Council of WA and the WA Forest Alliance.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- Every member of the committee has worked particularly hard this year. Individuals have written submissions, manned stalls, attended clean up events, represented PPG at meetings, conferences and consultations, written letters to politicians and newspapers, attended committee meetings, taken part in protest rallies and zoom meetings, and (successfully) applied for grants. Non committee members have also played a part in many of these activities, and our thanks are due to all.
- Thanks also to the City of Mandurah for giving us office space in one of their buildings, and for giving us a grant to upgrade our technology so we can further our educational aims.
- Rotary continues to give us valued support, as does Nourishing the Soul Cafe with their donation tin for dolphin rescue.
- David Templeman, Member for Mandurah, has been a long time supporter of PPG and especially this year with a generous Member's grant to the MVDRG.
- Mention must be made of the kind staff at the local CommBank branch who, upon learning of our activities, took up a collection for us amongst themselves!
- Thanks are due this year to the members of the public who so helpfully collect containers and send the proceeds to PPG and MVDRG.

## MEETINGS AND THE OFFICE

**Committee meetings** are held on the first Thursday of each month (except Jan) at 5.30pm. The meetings usually last no longer than an hour and a half. All members are welcome to attend.

**PPG office** is open and manned from 9.00am till about 12.00pm on Tuesdays. The office is currently at 63 Ormsby Terrace, Mandurah.

**Informal Coffee Meetings** are held monthly on the Saturday preceding the committee meetings, at 1.00pm at Nourishing the Soul Cafe on Darwin Terrace, Dudley Park. All are welcome, including family and dogs! We have a general conversation about the environment, the news or anything else we want to. It is a great opportunity to sort out a few matters before the Committee meeting, and for ordinary members to bring up things they would like discussed at said meeting.

**Moving Office:** PPG may be required to leave 63 Ormsby Tce. and relocate to Lakelands Community Centre, but the City has not yet set a moving date.

## ISSUES AND OUTCOMES.

(These are not in any particular chronological order.)

- **TROLLS** The City announced a plan to place huge wooden trolls from Europe around the sensitive bushland areas of Mandurah as tourist attractions. Their aim was noble, as the powers that be wanted people to become aware of our environment and be educated about the flora and fauna that live here. Unfortunately the logistics were going to have a very poor outcome on the locations they proposed. After consultations with the public, including PPG representations, the project was shelved. It may be resurrected, but with much more care and thought put into it.
- **TIMS THICKET.** It was proposed to reopen a Council facility at Tims Thicket as a liquid waste dumping ground, after it had ceased to be used for this for years. The environmental impact would have been severe, and protest meetings, letters and rallies persuaded the City to reverse their decision. Kudos to Bouvard Coast Care Group for leading the campaign since the mid-1990s.
- **PT GREY MARINA PROPOSAL.** PPG and many other concerned organisations put submissions to the Murray Shire Council opposing the development of a marina at Pt Grey that would require dredging of the Estuary on a regular basis, to the detriment of the water quality and the aquatic fauna. The Council upheld our opposition and put it to the next Government level for a final decision. This is pending and may not be what we fought for.
- **LOGGING IN NATIVE FORESTS.** Submissions from many groups and individuals, including PPG, resulted in the WA Govt announcing a ban on logging in old growth native forests from 2024. (Except for thinning and mining!)

- **CRG for CHRMAP** Community Reference Group for Coastal Hazard Reduction Adaptation Plan was inaugurated by the Shire of Murray, with Stewart Godden as PPG rep. Some members attend workshops and report to us on the plans to handle sea level and river level rises if and when they occur.
- **GOVT CLIMATE CHANGE POLICIES.** PPG continues to put in submissions to persuade the politicians of the benefits and necessities of renewable energy sources. Clean State climate petition was signed by PPG members. The local newspaper reported opinions of members about the FOGO (food and organic waste) bins being adopted by Council, instead of our waste being incinerated in Kwinana. Council intends to go ahead with incineration, at this stage. **HOWEVER** we did encourage the City of Mandurah to join the “Cities Power Partnership” regarding renewable energy – and they did join!
- **CITY OF MANDURAH TREE MASTER PLAN.** PPG made a written submission about the sorts of trees that should be planted in parks, reserves and streets of Mandurah. Members then attended the Council meeting about it, and made a deputation. PPG was pleased when the City adopted the over-arching Greening Framework which aims to greatly increase tree coverage.
- **CLEAN UP PEEL DAY.** PPG members cleaned up Len Howard Conservation Park. All our members continue to pick up litter every day when they are out and about. Well done!
- **WA ELECTION.** PPG member Stewart stood as a candidate for the Greens, spending many hours with wife Sue and others, campaigning and educating the public about environmental issues. (PPG itself is politically neutral and will lobby any party to further our aims.)
- **SCARBOROUGH GAS PROJECT** Members are kept abreast of what is happening, and submissions have been sent in strongly objecting to it. Finance partners are withdrawing and investors are pulling out, so we are hopeful.
- **URANIUM MINES.** In a similar position, the miners are without funds, but still intend going ahead with starting mining in Dec. 21.
- **NATIVE VEGETATION DRAFT POLICY** PPG and individual members have put in submissions to try and get the govt to aim for vastly increasing the amount and variety of vegetation, rather than just managing what is there until it disappears. Also to stop the burning off practices they currently employ, in favour of methods developed by the aboriginal people.
- **UNCONTROLLED DEVELOPMENT** is of great concern to PPG as the law is unable to keep up with the destruction of threatened ecological communities by developers who have no regard for the environment and no interest in learning how to clear land in harmony with nature.

- **DESTRUCTION OF THE FOREST FOR MINING.** This continues to be a heart-breaking issue for many in the Peel region. Several organisations, including PPG, are currently working on plans to stop, or at least limit the extent of the mining.
- **GRANTS** were received from Rotary and David Templeman for assisting the work of the dolphin rescuers, and from City of Mandurah for upgrading PPG technology.

There are many more meetings that were attended, projects begun and letters written – all by individual members - but it's time to tell you what our future aims are.

## THE FUTURE.

With the grant from the City we are purchasing a projector, a screen, and laptop computer. We would like to use these in the following ways:

- Make presentations about the environment and PPG activities to clubs and societies.
- Show short but powerful videos to school groups and at shopping centres.
- Lend equipment to other enviro groups like "Friends" groups or Waste Warriors.
- Act as a central point to connect enviro groups in the Peel region.
- Educate people in power about important issues, by using the technology available.

A school in the Peel region has already asked some of our members to give a presentation to their students on the sea bins that we monitored for over a year. It is this sort of thing we need, to get the message across to the younger generations -

DON'T LOSE HEART!

USE TECHNOLOGY TO FIX THE PROBLEMS.

EDUCATE ONE ANOTHER TO DO THE RIGHT THINGS.