PEEL PRESERVATION GROUP ANNUAL REPORT 2024

Prepared for the 27th November 2024 Annual General Meeting by Treasurer Deb Hay.

ABOUT THE GROUP.

Since 1976, Peel Preservation Group has been actively working to protect our unique natural environment, which includes the flora and fauna, the forests, and the waterways, from ill-considered development, destructive mining and damaging control measures. Beliefs and knowledge, technology and systems, have changed drastically in this time, but most of the issues we faced back then are still with us. Even worse, all levels of government seem hell-bent on money-making enterprises from energy sources, exportable resources, and urban sprawl, regardless of the effects on nature.

For several years we have been auspicing the Mandurah Volunteer Dolphin Rescue Group, overseeing the financial side of their activities, and this year we began assisting the Friends of Lake McLarty with their "Restoring Lake McLarty" project by auspicing them with their NRM grant.

PPG is made up of volunteers, and is managed by a democratically organised Committee. We hold a Charitable Collections licence as a not-for-profit incorporated association, and currently are group members (and supporters) of the Urban Bushland Council, the Conservation Council of WA, and the WA Forest Alliance. PPG sends representatives to the meetings of all these groups.
Many of our members are also in the Mandurah Environment and Heritage Group.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- We would like to thank the members who have belonged to PPG for many years, and who are still supporting us. What a wonderful example of commitment and dedication!

- We also thank the City of Mandurah who provides us with office and storage space to keep equipment and documents, at very low cost.

- Thanks are also due to the many local businesses, clubs and artists, who support us with donations, collection tins, and good will of their staff.

- Members who have helped at stalls, written submissions, and letters of support for other groups, taken part in training sessions, planted trees, attended Clean Up days, joined in meetings – live and by Zoom, taken part in

protest rallies, and enjoyed walks through our beautiful bushlands with us throughout the year – thank you!

- We also acknowledge the kindness of the general public who make an effort to clean up litter, and to donate the funds from collecting containers to PPG and the MVDRG.

- And finally thanks to this year's Committee who have kept everything rolling along in spite of personal challenges and unavoidable absences.

MEETINGS AND THE OFFICE

Committee meetings are currently held on the second Wednesday of each month at 5.00pm. They usually last up to an hour and a half, and all members are welcome to attend. Occasionally we have a guest speaker to talk about a special interest.

PPG office at Lakelands Community House is an invaluable space to store all our records and equipment. Due to a lack of internet there, we have found it more convenient to work from home, and because of its distance from central Mandurah, the Committee opted to hold meetings in the Shed by kind permission of Peel Harvey Catchment Council.

Informal coffee meetings are held monthly on the last Saturday of the month, at 1.00pm at Nourishing the Soul Cafe on Darwin Terrace, Dudley Park. All are welcome – family, dogs etc. And the food is delicious!
We use the occasion to discuss news about the environment, issues we'd like brought up at Committee, and anything that we want to share.

Heartfelt thanks to Sally Kirby and Barb Sing for keeping our Facebook page up to date, relevant and interesting.

ISSUES AND OUTCOMES.

Mining and forests.

- The current burning issues involve the encroachment of mining into previously untouched areas of forest. In particular – Alcoa and South32 – want to expand their leases, which would involve large areas of unique jarrah forest to be destroyed. Some of the companies practise rehabilitation of deforested areas, but the new plantings cannot possibly replace the centuries old trees that provide habitat for so many endangered species.

PPG supports the Dwellingup Discovery Forest Defenders, the Northern Jarrah Forest Defenders, The Wilderness Society, the WA Forest Alliance, and PEPA in Pinjarra, by sending representatives to their meetings, writing submissions to EPA and other Government bodies, taking part in protest activities, and trying to educate the public as much as possible about what we will lose if the miners have their way unchecked by any authority.

Burning off.

- Another issue that concerns us is the Government practice of burning off huge areas of bushland to mitigate bushfire risk. We believe they are using "overkill" by dropping fire bombs, when scientists have proven the aboriginal methods of cool, small burnings can be effective and retain the biodiversity of a site.

Destruction of endangered bushland habitats.

- Members have sent submissions and letters of protest about various areas of urban bushland that are endangered by proposed inappropriate development. In early October this year we held a walk through a last remaining banksia stand at Melros which is mooted for a high school. We are now trying to find an alternative site to recommend to the Education Dept, so this magnificent biodiverse habitat can be saved.

In the immediate future we hope to:

- Continue to auspice the Dolphin Rescue Group and the Friends of Lake McLarty to enable them to continue their excellent work.

- Raise awareness in the public and the government, of the unique natural resources we have, and what we are losing from the impact of human pressure.

- Let other environmental groups borrow the equipment we bought with a CoM grant to pursue their projects and advertise their passions.

- Find out the issues that other environmental groups in the Peel Region are concerned about, and support them in whatever way we can.

An informed public has a lot of persuasive power! PPG has the opportunity to make them informed. Thank you all for your part in this important mission.