

ANNUAL REPORT - PEEL PRESERVATION GROUP - 2014

HIGH POINT One of the high points of this year for PPG is the marking of 20 years of publication of the quarterly *Preservation Times* magazine. Congratulations to all previous and current editors and contributors. We hope our readers enjoy our publications.

LOW POINT Probably the low point is the news that the Federal Minister for the Environment has given approval for the development of an onshore marina and a channel from Point Grey to the Dawesville Cut. The company has approval until 2052. Unless there is a change in law, the permission remains even if the area is sold to another developer.

SUBMISSIONS During the year PPG has made 18 formal submissions on development proposals, trying to be fair and objective whilst upholding our aim to preserve as much of the natural environment within reason as is possible. It may not always be possible to prevent a proposal being approved, however the goal, if nothing else, is to improve the environmental outcome. The submissions were about:

1. Lot 90 Leisure Way
2. Shire of Murray approval of piggery plans
3. Lakelands mixed business proposal
4. WAPC – Comments on Planning Changes
5. WAPC – comment re Keane Rd Extension Proposal
6. Parks and Wildlife – Draft Plan Swan River Plain
7. Comments on Draft Resource and Minerals regulations
8. Comments on Draft Resource and Minerals regulations
9. Madora Bay North
10. Comments on Draft Resource and Minerals regulations
11. Comment Frasers Landing
12. Comment to DeR re GD Pork
13. Biofertiliser submission
14. Comment – Pleasant Grove
15. Halls Head Bulky goods
16. Draft modification Mariners Cove
17. Bushfire Fire regulations
18. Comment PHCC draft management strategy

FORMAL LETTERS We have written several formal letters such as a protest about the Joint Development Assessment Panels of the Planning department (following our earlier submission to WA Department of Planning suggesting the proposed changes would be problematic). A letter of protest at cuts to funding for the Environmental Defenders Office was sent to the Prime Minister. Listening to Patrick Pearlman, EDO Principal Solicitor, at our AGM reveals the difficulty this is causing and the EDO's need for financial support to continue its valuable legal help to environmental groups on environmental issues.

DEPUTATIONS Also we have made Deputations to the City of Mandurah Planning meetings. In some cases the local residents particularly close to the contentious issue have been very appreciative of our support. The deputations were about:

1. Frasers Landing
2. Tims Thicket question to Council

OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS Amongst other notable achievements is the updating of our Strategic Plan which has enabled us to assess the previous years, formulate strategies and gauge their effectiveness, for now and into the future. We have introduced PPG Membership Gift Certificates which make great Christmas or birthday gifts for friends and family. Another step was the design and printing of business cards, which announce our aims and goals. All members are welcome to pop into the office and 'grab' a few to distribute when the occasion arises, as a way of spreading awareness of PPG to the wider community.

WE HAVE ALSO purchased a small fridge for the office and for storage of water test chemicals; purchased an editing program; and taken out public risk insurance of the *Aquaread* water test probe which has been hired out to PHCC on several occasions as well as being used monthly for our water test program.

CONNECTION WITH OTHERS We have supported the *Preserve Point Peron* group in their efforts to prevent a potentially damaging development near the Lake Richmond thrombolites and encroaching into the Cockburn Sound. We have sponsored Lakelands Landlink in getting a City of Mandurah Grant, for an Eco Treasure Hunt around Black Swan Lake as a means of fostering the residents valuing of their area. The recently established *Friends of Lake McLarty* group has been sponsored in applying for, and receiving funding from, Alcoa to assist with weed control as preparation for improved signage and a walk trail at the lake. PPG has been supportive of the opposition Environment Minister Chris Tallentire in his Private Members' Bill to introduce a Peel Harvey Catchment Trust to help protect the estuary and its Ramsar values.

THE DIGITAL AGE The City of Mandurah has continued with its Community Grant to assist us with funds towards printing the *Preservation Times*. Although some members appreciate a digital copy of the newsletter, others still like a 'physical' copy to read with their morning coffee. Please let us know your preference. If you like reading information/newsletters from the *Conservation Council of WA* and others, these can be forwarded digitally from the office.

UPDATING THE WEBSITE We also hope that the current year will see an improved website and the inclusion of water test results in a graphic format. Our Facebook is in need of review, updating and even someone who can spend some time using it as the useful communication that it could be.

JOINING THE COMMITTEE Those who are members and have provided email addresses will realise that we are making it easier for people who would like to be part of our committee but find it difficult to attend meetings. Voting on agenda items and motions can now be conducted by email (as points towards constructing a submission are already being done).

THANK YOU We thank all committee and general members for their hard work and support over the last 12 months. Monday mornings see several members in the office attending to business. Much of the work continues via email, improving and reviewing comments until they are ready for submission.