

## PEEL PRESERVATION GROUP ANNUAL REPORT 2015

2015 – The year that is fast rolling to a close for us all, and is at the end for PPG, has been eventful in several ways. It is the year that PPG became a Registered Charity with the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission (ACNC) and approved for tax concessions by the Australia Tax Office. Fulfilling these recent requirements makes us fully compliant with regulations and approved to accept donations, which need to be shown on ‘financials’ (as always) but also shown on annual reports to ACNC. This year our donations have been allocated to cover the cost of our Public Risk/Property Insurance and also the phone and internet expenses. Picture the treasurer and the secretary trying to fill out all the forms, but we did win in the end!

We are very grateful to David Templeman for his generous donation which came n at a time when we were increasingly aware of the risk of accident involved in the water testing program once it had been increased to monthly, and the urgent need to cover the valuable water testing meter and our even more valuable volunteer members.

Our most obvious project this year was *Plastic Free July* with the display held at the Forum over several days and two successful screenings of the movie ‘Trashed’. Thanks in organising the grant applications goes to Linda as it involved a lot of effort at a time when the secretary was involved elsewhere. We also wish to thank the Rotary Club of Mandurah and the City of Mandurah for sharing our vision and granting us funds. We believe that they were spent wisely, and to great effect. Thanks too to all who worked setting up and manning the stall. It was wonderful to see so many of the reusable green bags we gave out actually being used. I know a dear lady in her 90s who uses hers regularly.

Also during July we won “most popular local group” and \$300 (and some free burgers) from Grill’d. Thank you to Darren for organising this. Who says there’s no such thing as a free lunch!

As well as the grants for *Plastic Free July* we are pleased that, yet again, the City of Mandurah has granted us Community Association Funding of \$500 to assist with the production of the quarterly Preservation Times. This publication is available digitally but many recipients still prefer a ‘hard copy’ – perhaps easier to read with a cup of coffee.

In turn PPG lent the Environment & Heritage Group funds to enable the Incorporation process and to obtain Dudley Dolphin. The newly formed Friends of Lake McLarty were also sponsored to gain a grant from Alcoa for works out at the lake.

In PPG’s pattern of ‘having our say’ we wrote a number of submissions during the year:

- Bushfire Planning submission
- Peel Harvey Catchment Council Management submission
- Comment re. Tim’s Thicket Transfer Station Licence Proposal
- Comment re. Proposed Industrial subdivision Nambelup
- Western Australian Planning Commission – submission Perth-Peel @3.5 mil.
- Peel Planning – submission Floodplains
- Limestone Mining at Myelup
- Submission Lakelands North
- As well as online support for campaigns to Save Beeliar Wetlands, Gt Barrier Reef etc.

Two clever Murdoch students came in to discuss our website and designed a fresh new site for us as part of their assignments. We just have to master the editing (which might take a bit of effort but we will persevere).

To add to the challenge we updated our Microsoft Office software and, of course, every update changes ‘things’ slightly. Another challenge was getting the NBN installed in the office. “Just get a new modem, plug into that and you will be right to go” he said. That was an enormous understatement but it’s all sorted now and hopefully so are the accounts for the changeover, or Dave will have torn out all his hair!

It is hard to single out particular committee members for their contributions but suffice it to say, without Coral as Editor, *The Preservation Times* would struggle. We are glad that Linda keeps in touch while she is overseas as she works wonders on the internet from afar. Denis is a great support, and our new members are proving invaluable; Rachel and Darren for good ideas and being proactive, and Koby for his expertise and regularity with the water testing (between study and assignments). And, without Dave coming in to the office every Monday (except for a stint for surgery and recuperation) the accounts would not be in such good shape. We also thank him for his input in putting together draft submissions for members to add their comments.

What a great team - well done all!

*Shirley Joiner*