

Peel Preservation Group Annual Report 2019

Prepared for the Annual General Meeting
on 21 November 2019
by Secretary Susanne Godden



About PPG

What is Peel Preservation Group Inc? Is it a group that helps preserve old buildings, like the National Trust? No, it isn't. Does it then preserve jams and such like? No, it's not that either. As you are no doubt aware, it is an environmental group. More specifically, a group of unpaid volunteers working together to conserve and protect the natural environment of the Peel region, including native plants and animals. Our aim is also to encourage an appreciation for these things. PPG is mainly interested in the local area but will also get involved in issues in the wider areas of Western Australia, the nation and the globe when environmental issues from these areas also affect the Peel region.

PPG is a not-for-personal-profit incorporated association and holds a charitable collections licence. The group was founded in 1976, so it is now 43 years old.

Thanks

- [Peel-Harvey Catchment Council](#) (PHCC) help with the Annual General Meeting:
 - for the use of their Shed, tea & coffee
 - to Allison for helping set up and
 - Jane O'Malley for presenting the life membership certificates
- The [City of Mandurah](#) (CoM) for:
 - help with the sea bins project; installation cost, use of their marina location, ongoing power and mechanical maintenance
 - a grant allowing PPG to buy hi-vis vests
 - allowing us to have our office in one of their buildings
- [David Templeman, Member for Mandurah](#) for his ongoing sponsorship from part-proceeds of his annual Cheap and Dodgy Productions Christmas Charity concerts, and for his advocacy that helped us get the initial grant to start the sea bins project. The grant was a state government grant via the Peel Development Commission.
- [The Rotary Club of Mandurah](#) for their long-term support
- [Nourishing the Soul Café](#) for their support of Mandurah Volunteer Dolphin Rescue Group (MVDRG) via a collection tin
- Not least, thank you to [all members](#) for moral and ongoing practical support from annual membership fees and donations. When PPG lobbies on behalf of the environment, the unspoken question from whoever we are lobbying is "Why should we listen to you?" I believe it is more likely they will listen to 50 or so of us than just one. Thanks to the members who helped us pick up trash at the Coodanup foreshore event this year, including Denis, Erin, Deb and Peter.
- A special thank you to the hard-working [committee](#) and [active members](#), who I have gotten to know quite well personally and are now my friends.

Meetings

Committee Meetings

These have been held monthly throughout the year at **6 pm on the first Thursday of each month**. They are held at the **Parents Place building, 63 Ormsby Terrace, Mandurah**.

Coffee meetings occur at **2 pm on the Saturdays before the committee meetings** at **Nourishing the Soul Café, 40 Darwin Terrace in Dudley Park**. These are informal. We do talk about environmental matters, but it is also very social, and we have a general chit-chat.

Events

- [Sea bins launch](#) at Mandurah Ocean Marina
- [‘Climate Change & You’ presentations](#) by Aaron Tuckey
- [Clean-up at Coodanup Estuary Foreshore](#) as part of Clean Up Australia Day & the annual Clean Up Peel Waterways. 17 people took part.
- [Stall at the CCWA Climate Roadshow](#), at Bortolo Pavilion in Greenfields. About 100 people were in the audience. PPG displayed sea bin detritus and photos of wild orchids.
- [Meeting re Point Grey](#) with Diane Evers MLC, Member for the South West and PHCC
- Attended official [opening of Shirley Joiner Reserve](#) at Sharperton Meander, Dudley Park
- Upcoming Social event, David Templeman’s Christmas Show (December)
- Upcoming film ‘2040’ (March 2020)

Submissions

- To WA environment minister Stephen Dawson re single-use plastics and support for a ban on plastic straws and balloons.
- City of Mandurah
 - Input into the local cat law
 - Thanks for acting on our request to name something appropriate on behalf of our former long-term secretary, the late Shirley Joiner.
- Environmental Protection Agency re greenhouse gas emissions
- Department of Water & Environmental Regulation (DWER) re
 - Compliance & Enforcement Policy consultation
 - Container Deposit Scheme
 - Climate Change issues paper
- Shire of Murray
 - Herron Point Management Plan
 - Proposed Point Grey Marina, against proposed Stage 1 earthworks
 - Murray 2030 Strategic Community Plan

Activities

- Dave Thomas, with a wealth of organisational history, mentors me in the office.
- Ron Glasson, our Bouvard Coast Care rep, responsible for the coastal environment south of the Dawesville Channel, has been computer 'whisperer' and occasional meeting chairperson (revolving chair).
- Stewart Godden has proof-read many documents and chaired meetings, worked to get the sea bins project up and running and has spoken to the media.
- Les Hodgson and Rex Warne, who between them emptied the sea bin baskets at the marina every day since February 2019 and gave them a little scrub from time to time. They also recorded the data and passed it on to the sea bin foundation. Wow. Newer volunteer Mitch Cryer helped as well, thanks.
- Sally Kirby, our Dolphin Rescue Group representative, kept us informed of dolphin matters when not busy saving dolphins.
- Barbara Sing and Jo Drew helped Les and Rex educate multiple groups of schoolchildren on plastic reduction during tours of the sea bins. Barb is also our Facebook assistant.
- Barry Small, in charge of our Facebook, kept it fresh and regularly updated.
- Mel Tuckey, main submission-writer extraordinaire, media liaison and wild orchid aficionado.
- Ahmed Zilani, Treasurer, for all the banking, reports and auditor liaison.
- Linda Thorpe, our webmaster, assisted by Anita Watters.
- Diane Louw, for taking some turns as meeting chairperson.
- Quite comprehensive research has been done on 'Bins in Mandurah Shopping Areas' but this project is still in its infancy. The gist of the research results is that whilst there are bins around, a few more would be helpful, especially recycling bins of which *there are practically none* (meanwhile, we are all expected to use them at home).

Partnerships

- **City of Mandurah** – with the sea bins & Mandurah Environmental Volunteers Alliance (MEVA)
- **Mandurah Volunteer Dolphin Rescue Group** – PPG helps with their administration and supports their fund-raising / both groups cross-publicise
- **Bouvard Coast Care Group** – we have a rep on our committee and some members in common
- **Mandurah Heritage and Environment Group** - some members in common
- **John Tonkin College** - upcoming film showing is being done jointly
- **Urban Bushland Council** and **Conservation Council of WA**: PPG holds group memberships of these 'umbrella' environmental organisations to keep in the loop of wider Perth and WA matters.

Struggles

We decided not to persist with trying to get a volunteer to do newsletters.
Email, Facebook and website seem to be working ok for communication.

We have had trouble contacting our previous water tester and so have not been able to do a handover and continue.

In common with other not-for-personal-profit volunteer organisations, we often have difficulty getting volunteers and need to compete for available funding (donations & grants).

Our Treasurer is vacating, and we need a new one. This is a vital role for the organisation.

Future

PPG plans to continue campaigning for the reduction of plastics, particularly single-use plastics and sustainability in general. We aim to find and promote alternatives, 'keep cup' awareness, bamboo/paper straws instead of plastic straws and calico etc. rather than plastic bags.

Additionally, we are moving more into climate-related issues, such as promoting renewable energy and considering water-level rise.

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