

PORT MANDURAH RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION

Annual General Meeting 6pm Thursday 15 May 2025 at Platinum Room , Rushton Park, Mandurah.

Minutes

Present – Jim Booker, Bob Ballantine, Ken Pitts, Amanda Giblett, Max Begley, Peter McGuire, Rae McGuire, Jenni Rogalski, Carol Hudson, Dianne O’Driscoll, Steve Zielinski, Darrin Brandon, Carolyn Brandon, John Perry, Ang Booker, Peter Hick, Raelene Hick, Peter Winn, Jill Randall, John McElvaney, Carole McElvaney, Peter Giannai, Sheryl Giannai, Ron Taggart, Helen Taggart, Irene Harrop, Yan LI, Kath Della-Santina, Greg Della-Santina, Jeff Argoon, Kerry Argoon

Apologies – Brad and Eileen Mitchell. Tom and Andrea Esze, Andrew Bell, Jeanette Begley, John Randall.

Welcome - President Jim Booker (JB) welcomed all present and thanked the current Committee for its contribution during the year. He welcomed City of Mandurah Councillors Ryan Burns, Dave Schumacher and Ahmed Zilani. He acknowledged the businesses that sponsor PMRA and introduced representatives of the CoM Community Safety initiative and recommended discussion with them following the meeting.

JB thanked the current Committee for their contribution during the year.

Minutes of the 2024 AGM – no comments or amendments were forthcoming. Moved Peter Hick and Seconded John McElveney that they be accepted. Carried.

President’s Report – A copy of the report was available for all attendees and is published on the PMRA website. JB mentioned that the main focus for the year has been on waterways issues. The significant matters being canal safety, dredging, sand by-passing and commercial operators. PMRA has had regular discussions with CoM CEO and through representation on the Port Mandurah Canals Waterways Advisory Group. (PMCWAG). The management, by CoM, of the Specified Area Rate (SAR) levy attracts constant attention. This account is used primarily for dredging the northern entry to the Main Canal and PMRA is also being charged for dredging a considerable section of the estuary.

PMRA is working with CoM to introduce an arrangement that requires commercial operators to make a substantial contribution to the cost of dredging. PMRA has also made representations concerning the use of the public jetty outside MANPAC by the boat hire business.

Based on the results of a survey of members, PMRA has supported the Hands Off Hall Park initiative. Answering a question from the floor, JB responded that if members wished to conduct their own survey and could demonstrate that a majority of members support the Western Foreshore proposal then PMRA may reconsider its position.

JB informed the meeting that PMRA has made several attempts to increase the membership email address list through letter box drops, fridge magnets etc. There has been little response to these efforts. He acknowledged that there have been some issues with emails going to SPAM but there does not appear to be a permanent fix for this problem.

The Santa Afloat was a success and PMRA will continue with this event. JB suggested that the incoming Committee should consider organising more events to encourage community participation.

JB encouraged members to contact the CoM if they have concerns. PMRA will support them where appropriate.

Treasurers Report – Bob Ballantine (BB) provided details of the years financial activity. He mentioned that PMRA is currently challenging the CoM’s reported balance of the SAR account. No dredging is planned for this year, but there will be a significant expense next year. Significant items of income for the year include \$2900 sponsorships, PMRA functions \$3730, TD interest \$5328.49 and CoM SAR \$3000. Major expenditure items were Admin, website and newsletters \$5764.55, PMRA functions \$5326.85 and Hall Park support \$3265.60. The cash account balance is \$13261.77 and the Term Deposit is \$112123.30.

John McElveney enquired regarding commercial operators making a contribution to the dredging account. He was advised that this is being negotiated with CoM, but apparently no action can be taken until the current licenses expire.

Business arising from the 2024 AGM Minutes – It seems that the minutes of PMCWAG meetings are not being tabled at Council meetings. This was agreed by the CEO at the 2024 AGM. To be followed up by incoming Committee.

Election of Committee 2025/26 – JB advised that the Rules allow for up to 10 Committee members and 4 Co-opted members. He said 11 nominations had been received prior to the meeting : Brad Mitchell, Eileen Mitchell, Peter Hick, Darrin Brandon, Jim Booker, Bob Ballantine, Ken Pitts, Andrew Bell, Tom Esze, Amanda Giblett, Yan Li.

In the absence of any further nominations, all were congratulated on their election, with Yan Li accepting a Co-opted Member role.

General Business – Speeding boats on the canals is an ongoing issue. PMRA raise this issue constantly with CoM and DoT, but little is done to address the problem. The Police are the only group with the authority to prosecute. Members are encouraged to report any unsafe boating to the Water Police.

PMRA have been lobbying DoT to provide speed cameras and even offered to purchase units, but this offer has been declined. PMRA cannot install cameras without approval. Darrin Brandon noted that hire boats do have GPS tracking so the speed can be monitored by the company. CoM and DoT need to be more active in managing safety compliance in the boat hire industry.

Dianne O’Driscoll and Jill Randall reported problems receiving PMRA emails. JB will follow up.

A question was raised concerning the roundabout on the western side of the town bridge. It was suggested that one lane coming from Old Coast Road should be dedicated to left turn only. Comment in response was that this problem is currently being considered in the CoM Traffic Management Plan.

No further business and meeting closed at 6.50pm.