

Port Mandurah Ratepayers' Association Inc.

President's report 2023/2024

Following the 2023 AGM the newly elected committee made a decision that the committees' efforts would be targeted more towards issues with the waterways and the canals themselves and less on social activities.

The committee has met eleven times, met with Mandurah Waterways three times and has had three meetings with the Mandurah Council once with the new CEO and twice with particular Directors. Councillors Dave Schumacher and Ryan Burns have attended committee meetings.

Committee

The current committee members are: Mike Board, Bob Ballantine, Peter McGuire, Jim Booker, Steve Zielinski, Bruce Were, Peter Spalding, Andy White, Parminder Singh, Ivan Bennett and Dr Gary Singh.

I would like to thank the current committee for their efforts this year. A number will be moving on and we are looking for residents who have an interest in benefiting our living environment to nominate at the AGM to join our committee. It is important that the committee has sufficient member numbers to keep issues before us going ahead.

Main Issues for the Committees efforts: -

- Canal Safety & speed limits
- Canal Security
- Dredging costs, location, contributors
- Waterways maintenance
- Membership
- Gardens
- Social activities

Achievements

The Committee for a number of years has pursued the Council to look at the possibility of a more permanent solution to the regular dredging of the Canals by adopting a sand bypassing solution, diverting the sand away from the main entrance. The committee was successful in convincing the Council to conduct an "environmental impact study" which has now been completed but yet to be presented to the Council. We await eagerly the recommendations in that report.

We have continued to pursue an increase in registered members and to that effect have upgraded our website, modernising it and making it more fit for purpose. Regular emails to members have increased and our site is constantly monitored.

Thanks to Jim Booker for his efforts here. Our new member Parminder Singh has provided some new initiatives to advertise and increase membership.

Our attendance at the Port Mandurah Waterways Advisory Group has been our main avenue for information and effecting some change. In attendance here are the City of Mandurah Financial and Marina, as well as the Dept of Transport, occasionally the Water Police, and a number from our committee. Signage, Speed cameras, Maintenance, Dredging, are all issues discussed with a number of improvements achieved. These are ongoing issues with the need for additional speed indicators and cameras. Thanks to Bob Ballantine, Peter McGuire and Jim Booker for their efforts here. In particular I would like to thank Peter McGuire for his excellent minute taking and recording as well as distribution of material.

Our social activities will be reported on at the AGM however our Annual Christmas dinner and our annual Christmas lights Santa afloat were successful. Three Skippers crew and boats this year with lots of lollies for the kids. A luncheon function at a local vineyard was poorly attended. Thank you to Steve Zielinski for our social coordination.

Our financial position continues to be strong with our balance at Bank again higher this year. Thanks to Bob Ballantine our treasurer who will report at the AGM. Bob has also managed to convince the University of Western Australia to undertake a study through a PHD student, into the damage to canal walls etc by the increased traffic in the Canals. The result of this study next year may form the basis of future financial arrangements for canal maintenance.

Future Directions

The committee has been concerned about the lack of clarity in regard to Titles into the Canal and responsibility for that property. Various situations exist according to which Canal development and when it was built. Also, the contract that was made between the developer and the Council re the SAR etc may have expired and the Committee is pursuing a copy of that contract. Maintenance of the Canal walls is the personal responsibility of property owners and can be enormously expensive to replace if required. The committee is looking at the possibility and feasibility of a generic Insurance policy for our Canals.

The committee will continue to pursue Mandurah Council to look at a more equitable distribution of costs associated with dredging and maintenance of the Canals by adopting a policy of charges towards the greater uses of the Canals ie. commercial operators.

The Committee is keen to view an original copy of the deed of Agreement between the Council and the Developer as to the duration of that agreement and ongoing responsibilities.

The committee will continue to work with the various authorities to better control speed and safety on the Canals.

Meeting minutes and resolutions that are made at the Waterways committee are not tabled to form part of the Agenda at Mandurah Council meetings. We would like to see a more formal recognition of discussions and decisions of this committee and for Mandurah Council to look at those resolutions. The Council can decide to accept or not but at least we would have some decisions going forward.

Mike Board

President June 2024