**PORT MANDURAH RATEPAYERS’ ASSOCIATION INC.**

President’s Report Presented at the AGM on 15th May 2025 by Jim Booker

Following the 2024 AGM the newly elected committee continued its focus on waterways issues and less on social activities.

**Committee**

The 2024/25 committee members were: Jim Booker, Brad Mitchell, Bob Ballantine, Peter McGuire, Aileen Mitchell, Ken Pitts, Amanda Giblett, Max Begley, Parminder Singh and Irene Harrop with Darrin and Carolyn Brandon along with Chi Chi, as equally hard-working co-opted members.

I sincerely thank the 2024/25 committee for their concerted efforts in delivering the Objects of the Rules of The Association this past year.

1. To represent the ratepayers to oversee the expenditure of the Specified Area Rate, maintaining and where possible improving the quality of the development and preserve the resident’s lifestyle.
2. To support and encourage the maintenance of standards throughout the precinct.
3. To liaise and foster good working relations with government departments and other relevant bodies.
4. To foster good working relations with media and inform the public.
5. To publish information sheets and newsletters, benefitting members and non-members.
6. To encourage and foster social interaction between members.

Over the past year the PMRA general committee has met eleven times, the Port Mandurah Canals Waterways Advisory Group (PMCWAG) sub-committee met with the City of Mandurah (CoM) Marina officials 3 times and another sub-committee has met with the CoM’s CEO Casey Mihovilovich and Director Matt Hall over 6 times. Furthermore, CoM Councillors Dave Schumacher and Ryan Burns, by invitation, have attended 2 of the regular monthly committee meetings to discuss specific topics.

PMCWAG is represented by 3 PMRA committee members and meet with CoM officials and other relevant government bodies on a 4 monthly basis to discuss waterways issues.

Regular discussion topics at these meetings include Special Area Rate (SAR) contributions, canal signage, speed cameras, canal wall maintenance, the dredging program and progress on Sand Bypassing.

Permanent Sand Bypassing.

Your 2024 Committee continued to promote the installation of Permanent Sand Bypassing pumps as a sustainable solution to the insidious estuary and canal siltation. It is strongly believed, consequent to a ongoing series of engineering surveys that Permanent Sand Bypassing pumps will, for the most part, avert the seemingly annual, re-active response by the CoM with the huge and increasing dredging expenses incurred by PMRA and to a lesser extent the CoM.

In the past year, PMRA contributed over $200,000 from your levied SAR account to the cost of dredging.

Hands Off Hall Park.

All registered PMRA members were surveyed, of the 48 who responded over 80% were in support of what has become known as the “Hands Off Hall Park” campaign. A sub-committee was formed headed by Vice President Brad Mitchell. In support, the general committee decided to make $5,000 available to the “HOHP” sub-committee. The “HOHP” cause has since spawned a number of registered groups with their own committee members and sources of funding independent of your PMRA.

Community Safety Strategy.

The PMRA committee were contacted by Martine Stevens, CoM’s representative for the Community Safety Strategy 2024-2029, and, recognising the potential benefits to our members, have subsequently met several times and agreed to support this pro-active cause. Links to this W.A. Police/CoM initiative are on the PMRA website.

Santa Afloat.

Once again “Santa Afloat” was a smash hit. Despite the blustery weather experienced on Xmas Eve, Hundreds of PMRA residents, their children and canine friends received a visit from Santa and his helpers.

This annual event, led by PMRA’s treasurer Bob Ballantine supported financially by our sponsors, and ably assisted by the committee, put on a memorable display of Xmas and community spirit amid the squeals and laughter of PMRA children and adults. Special thanks to boat skippers, Santa’s and their crews; Darrin and Carolyn Brandon, Andrew and Hayley Bell, Wayne Williamson, Bob Ballantine and Angela Booker.

Christmas Dinner.

The Christmas Dinner, held at the magnificent, award-winning Mandurah Country Club, was enjoyed by all who attended. PMRA heavily subsidized this event and though the quality of food supplied was excellent there was a perceived lack of quantity. This did not detract from the annual catch-up and the incoming new committee is encouraged to initiate more member interaction functions.

UWA study relationship between boat traffic and canal wall integrity.

Bob Ballantine 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 outcome of this study to be finalised next year may form the basis of future financial arrangements for canal maintenance.

Future Directions

I suggest that the incoming committee, working with the CoM, continue to pursue more user-based distribution of dredging and canal maintenance costs.

That pressure, through meetings and correspondence, be maintained on the W.A. Department of Transport to improve waterways speed signage and speed monitoring.

That a pro-active canal dredging program and Sand Bypassing are agenda items at every PMCWAG meeting and that minutes and resolutions made at these meetings are tabled at subsequent Mandurah Council meetings.

A Call to Arms.

Unfortunately, several of the 2024/25 committee are retiring after years of service therefore YOUR Port Mandurah Ratepayers’ Association is seeking nominations from its resident ratepayers.

You need to nominate at this AGM and join this committee.

Challenging times lay ahead for our magnificent Port Mandurah Canal environment and a strong representative committee is essential to secure the best outcome.