

Perth Hills Climate Change Interest Group (PHCCIG) Annual Report October 2021 to October 2022



From the Committee

The last twelve months have been busy indeed. So many have been involved in some way, and every contribution, no matter how small, has counted towards a sustainable, carbon neutral and positive future for the Perth Hills, and for our planet. It's been so healing for the heart to have been involved in this endeavour - truly an inspiration!

The effort made by PHCCIG Committee members – Ailsa Paterson, Jen Griffiths, Cathy Levett, Michael Hoy, Stephan Millett, Denise Sweetman, Helen Lynes, and earlier in the year, the wonderful Patrick Crichton, has been outstanding. For those of you who have just stepped down this year, may the success of your contributions glow in your hearts brightly now and into the future.



Photo from the Strategic Planning Day 28th August 2022

From left – Helen Lynes (Vice Chair and A/Secretary), Denise Sweetman (Treasurer), Jen Griffiths (committee member and A/Vice Chair and A/Chair), Emma Barrett (Conservation Council of WA), Ailsa Paterson (Secretary), Pamela Griffiths, (member and newsletter volunteer), Cathy Levett (committee member and lead, Youth Portfolio), Michael Hoy (committee member and lead, ICT), Stephan Millett (Chair) and Nolan Hunter (member).

A big thank you goes to Anthea Elsner, Freelance Graphic Designer, for her beautiful, pro bono, work on the PHCCIG logo and style guide. Thanks also go to Pamela Griffiths for the volunteer work she has done on the newsletter, and to Brett Rosser and others who have volunteered at stalls and events. A heartfelt thanks also to Dr Hugh Finn and to Nolan Hunter for your respective contributions to educative community events about climate policy, and about valuing Indigenous people's contributions to climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Lots of wonderful connections have been made with many people who live, work and/or play in the Perth Hills, and with other environment and community groups, the media, and Local, State and Federal politicians.

The focus (or action areas) of our work has been to engage with local communities; draw on scientific evidence and the wisdom of lived experience and promote local participatory action research; and to advocate. We've also operated in accordance with the principles of sound governance. We're about to release a revised Strategic Plan, so watch the newsletter for updates!

Thank you everyone, Helen Lynes (for the Committee)

Activity Report

Community engagement

We've been informed by the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) spectrum for public participation in our community engagement work – to inform, consult, involve, collaborate and empower. We've listened deeply to young people and adults.

Youth Voices – Agents for Change



A youth standing committee, led by Cathy Levett, with Stephan Millett and Jen Griffiths, has continued to collaborate with Millennium Kids (MK).

Successes so far have included support for a successful funding application made by MK to the Shire of Mundaring for an Agents of Change project, and an interactive stall at Kalamunda's Forest Festival, October 2022.

Fire Pit Yarning – Valuing Indigenous People, Biodiversity, Environment, and Climate Change Outcomes and the Uluru Statement from the Heart

Mr Nolan Hunter, Head of Engagement, Uluru Dialogue, (right) gave a talk at the October Fire Pit Yarning at which he discussed the many ways in which the Uluru Statement from the Heart points the way towards First Nations cultural authority to heal the past, and to heal the way things are in Australia today, and into the future.



This included a summary of ways to learn from and do traditional ways of Caring for Country, and the global interest in, and commitment to, Indigenous climate abatement contributions.

This event, held at the Perth Discovery Centre in Mundaring, opposite the Kookaburra Outdoor Theatre on Allen Rd, was held in a large mud brick amphitheatre. Over 70 people registered and/or attended, and that despite several last-minute apologies due to flu!

A big thank you to Sundowners for lending us the sound system, the Conservation Council of WA for lending us the projector and the screen, and to Steve Crane and Hannah Napier, Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions for their help to arrange and set up the venue.

A massive thanks also to Mr Hunter for lighting and looking after the fire, and, of course, for his heartening presentation.

Marketing and Media



A media and marketing working group was set up this year. Key outputs:

- **Social Media**
 - A website (thanks Jen Griffiths for setting this up in early 2022)
 - Instagram set up, thanks to Jen.
 - Facebook page, thanks to Denise Sweetman and Ailsa Paterson: 326 followers, 252 likes.
 - PHCCIG e-Newsletters, monthly June 2022, 171 subscribers to date. Feature stories on inspirational climate champions in the Perth Hills in every article, so thank you Nina Radamanthos, Nolan Hunter, Steve Gates, Rose Logie and Cathy and Mike Burbridge, for being such inspirational people, and for all you do, for a carbon neutral, sustainable and positive future!
- **Federal Election Campaign Collaboration** with the Climate Action Network Australia, the Conservation Council of WA, and the Australian Conservation Foundation in the local distribution of *Climate Act Now* corflutes and stickers.
- **Grass roots collaboration** with the Citizens Climate Lobby, and a CCL talks, at a Kalamunda members and interested forum, Nature Reserves Preservation Group and Transition Kalamunda in Kalamunda climate action planning.
- **PHCCIG initiated media coverage**, thanks to Stephan Millett and Ailsa Paterson:
 - *Fire Sparks climate talks*, letter published in the Echo, 14th January 2022,
 - *Budget Not Hills Friendly*, letter published in the Echo, 8th April 2022,
 - Hasluck Candidates Climate Talk, Echo, 15th April 2022,
 - *Groups push for climate action*, Echo, 22 August 2022, and
 - *Media release - Residents need to vote for a candidate who can champion strong emission reductions*, May 2022
- **Mainstream media coverage**
 - *The Hills are alive with the sound of Zooming: WA candidates do virtual battle once more with feeling*. Crikey, 28 April 2022; and
 - *Liberal Frontbencher Ken Wyatt skips Conservation Council Q&A with voters in Hasluck*, The West Australian, 27th April 2022.
 - Interview with Jen Griffiths with Geoff Hutchinson ABC 720 Perth 1st March 2022 about *the importance of grass roots advocacy to a sense of agency, and healing through action to protect our planet from climate change damage*.
- **Marketing identity, look and feel**
 - Logo and stylebook arranged, thanks to Anthea Elsner, Freelance Graphic Designer.

Advocacy

Federal Election 2022 advocacy



Above photo - right Maureen Phillips, Convener, ACF Perth Community, centre Michael Hoy

The committee, members and volunteers, and our partners, were very busy in the lead up to the 2022 Federal election. Together, in the Perth Hills (mainly in the seat of Hasluck) we achieved at least:

- 363 climate policy conversations with people in the Hills through a candidates forum and market stalls
- A 500,000 reach to social, print, radio media and mailouts
- 2,260 items of marketing materials distributed, such as stickers and corflutes

Thank you to our partners, the Australian Conservation Foundation, the Conservation Council of Australia, and Climate Action Network Australia. Thank you **everyone!** And thank you to local community groups, such as the Nature Reserves Preservation Group, Save Perth Hills, Transition Kalamunda, Mundaring in Transition and the Citizens Climate Lobby.

Local Government

Several climate mitigation and adaptation issues have been raised with Perth Hills local governments, including:

- Advocacy to the Shire of Mundaring about switching incandescent street lights to LED. This is now in the Shire budget
- Collaboration with the Nature Reserves Preservation Group and Transition Kalamunda in the production of a submission guide about the City of Kalamunda's draft Climate Action Plan;
- A PHCCIG submission to the City of Kalamunda's draft Climate policy
- The preparation of an Advocacy Position – Climate Change, Local Governments in the Perth Hills; and
- Shire of Mundaring East Ward candidates responses to climate action question elicited and published in the June newsletter.

Other Submissions

- A submission to the WA Government's Greenhouse Gas Assessment Guidelines; and
- A submission to the Federal Government's Safeguard Mechanism.

Governance

Further to a strategic planning day in August 2022, a revised Strategic Plan has been drafted, and will be released soon. Operational policies have been prepared and endorsed by the committee, with thanks to the OurCommunity.com policy bank. The committee has met monthly. Working groups and sub committees have met more frequently according to need. The membership of the PHCCIG has continued to grow, as has interest and support for the group's aims.