

Welcome to the November edition of the Water's Edge. We anticipate that newsletters will be sent out on a quarterly basis to update members on the various aspects of the Port Geographe Development. Attached to this quarter's newsletter will be a 2009/2010 membership renewal form. In order to minimise costs we are endeavouring to send the newsletter by email. Please assist us by including your email address with your membership renewal. If you would prefer your newsletter by regular post please advise in the space provided.

Thanks

Lynda McClurg

New Committee Members

The PGLOA AGM held on 5th October 2009 was well attended and four new members were elected to the committee.

The current committee is:

Peter McClurg	Chairperson
Bob Godridge	Vice Chairperson
Simon Denney	Secretary
Jane Sparkes	Treasurer
Bruce Blundell	
Lynda McClurg	
John Valentine	
Dave Watts	

A big "thankyou" to the previous committee for all their hard work and many achievements. We would particularly like to thank our retiring chairperson, Mr Jeff Priest for his tireless work over the last 5 years.

The new committee had its first meeting on 21st October 2009. Bob Godridge was elected as the Vice Chairperson and Peter McClurg was elected as the association's representative on the *Port Geographe Consultative Committee Forum*.

What Are Your Concerns?

The committee is very keen to have feedback from its members to ascertain what issues are of greatest concern to them.

From the October meeting the committee has identified 5 main issues that require monitoring & attention (no order of priority).

- (i) The canals (flushing, navigation and water quality).
- (ii) The management of the coastal problems associated with the Port Geographe Development
- (iii) Development and construction issues, including the bridge and further development.
- (iv) Landscaping around the Port Geographe community.
- (v) Damage caused to properties in the course of development construction.

As there are many issues to contend with, the following portfolio's have been established and committee members assigned to oversee these portfolios

Portfolios

Coastal Management - Peter McClurg
mrbbus@westnet.com.au

Waterways & Canal Flushing- Bob Godridge
robg@oceanbroadband.net

Landscaping/Parks & Gardens - John Valentine
valservice@westnet.com

Infrastructure and Construction - Dave Watts
buscabs@computerwest.net.au

Newsletter – Lynda McClurg
mclurgs@westnet.com.au

Cont'd If you have concerns or questions you can direct them to the appropriate committee member. As most of the committee work during the day email is preferable. Leave a contact name, number or email, so that the committee member is able to contact you as soon as possible.

Alternatively you can send emails to the Associations emails address - portgeographeloa@gmail.com.au

What Do We Know? An Update...

All members should have received a briefing document from the shire in late October with regards to the seagrass and sand bypassing situation. Your committee has been endeavouring to find out more information as it comes to hand. What we do know thus far is as follows:

The Developer has not complied with their obligations under the development deed to carry out the coastal management works for 2009. To date, they have not been answering correspondence both from the Shire and the Department of Transport. We await further advice from the Shire as to the process from here.

Sea Weed/Sand bypassing: The current state of the beach west of the canal entrance is unacceptable and the committee will be working with the authorities and other stake-holders to get the best outcome for 2009 as quickly as possible.

Canals: There is currently a significant issue with canal access to the development because of seagrass and sediment accumulation. As such, temporarily, the Department of Transport has used marker buoys to demarcate a safe navigable passage into and out of the canals. The Department of Transport is attempting to access development bonds to fund a more permanent solution (dredging the canals).

The Pedestrian Bridge: At this point in time the bridge is still not officially open. While we realise

some residents are already using the bridge, we advise that it is still not completed to a safe standard. We have heard nothing from the developer with respect to a completion date.

Meeting With the Minister of Transport

On Thursday 22nd October our chairperson, Peter McClurg attended a meeting with the Minister of Transport (Simon O'Brien) which was facilitated by Troy Buswell's office. Also attending the meeting were representatives from the Port Geographe Action Group, Wonnerup Residents Association, Port Geographe Business Owners Association and the Shire. The Minister was briefed on the concerns of each group, the history of the coastal management issues associated with the Port Geographe Development, and issued with a joint statement from the four groups as to the resolutions expected. Amongst other things he concurred that the current seagrass management program was completely unsustainable and that the current design "had been done badly and needed fixing". He said that in the short term he had instructed his department to fast track the process to complete the 2009 works and to clear the canal entrance. As far as a sustainable long term solution he said he would "give it his best shot". In all, it was a positive meeting and the representatives from each group felt buoyed by the Ministers responses.

Membership

To maintain a strong voice when dealing with the developer, Shire and State Government authorities, the PGLOA requires a strong membership base. We implore you to renew your membership and encourage other landowners to join and support us.

Please find 2009/2010 membership application forms attached.

Regards
Peter McClurg (Chairperson)