

Port Geographe Landowners Association Inc

PGLOA Office Bearers 2019-2020



Chairman	Dennis Gee	dennis.gee@bigpond.com
Secretary	Peter Brinsden	pb@pbdesigns.com.au
Treasurer	Simon Denney	simon.denney@westnet.com.au
Committee	Ron McDavitt Michelle Reilly Emma Dickson Geoff Cocks	
Website	www.portgeographe.com.au	
General email	portgeographeloa@gmail.com	

News Bulletin of the Port Geographe Landowners Association – November 2019

***Waters Edge* goes to members and landowners via an expanding mailing list. This issue is devoted to image preservation and topics discussed with the City of Busselton.**

Whilst gently cycling into Busselton earlier today, I was reminded how lucky the residents of Port Geographe are, by living in such a serene part of the world. Complete strangers, neighbors, the old, the young, tourists, holiday makers and the occasional schoolies (who had arisen early), all returned my greetings with happy expressions as they looked forward to spending the day exploring our haven.

A variety of boats, big and small, pristine and weather beaten were motoring in and out of the Marina, enjoying the new boat ramp whilst the 'crews' were preparing their rods, checking their equipment and the buoyant voices of expectation were booming out across the water to ricochet of the canal walls like the wake from their boats. The '**Deck**' was stirring as they prepared for another day, satisfying the needs of the locals and visitors alike.

Further on, the distinctive sounds blasting from, what we used to call 'Ghetto Blasters', drew the attention momentarily to the efforts of yellow vested 'Tradies', as another abode was rising from the ground.

Signs of things looking up, I thought to myself. Ahh, summer is here. Soon the travelling Grey Nomads will be returning from their migrations from warmer climes to revel in the offerings of the south west.

But losing my concentration, I nearly fall of my bike from waving at the early morning coffee addicts at **Sensations** in their brightly colored summer apparel!!!

More boats plying out the entrance, avoiding the Dredger, to go check their pots and race to their favorite fishing spots.

I can now settle into a steady pace that allows me to absorb the panorama of the Bay in all its splendor as I travel down the coast towards the Jetty.

I know why we live here, apart from the excellent people, it is not only spectacular, but it is safe.

Not a bushfire, flood, cyclone, earthquake to be seen!!! Why would you live anywhere else!!

Chairman Dennis Gee and Secretary Peter Brinsden meet regularly with Mayor Grant Henley and CEO Mike Archer to discuss Port Geographe issues, which are summarized below.

Port Geographe Planning update:

There remains a 'hold-up' in a final decision on finished levels for any new developments at Port Geographe and indeed in the entire Busselton City. However, there has been some progress and we are hoping that in the first part of next year State Planning will agree on those levels. Aigle Royale has submitted their modelling to Council and State Planning with a view to a determination on a reduced level to that initially required.

Street Lighting:

We remain concerned about the replacement of some of the original streetlights due to cost and suitability. However, Mike Archer is hopeful that the City of Busselton has found some inexpensive stocks that will only require the replacement of the light and not the poles and base. We would encourage all ratepayers and residents of Port Geographe to contact Council to report faulty streetlights, so they can be fixed.

BBQ on the Western Entrance

The committee is pushing for a BBQ facility near the arched shade structure at the end of Freycinet Drive, near Sensations carpark. It would complement that on the eastern side. We understand it is to be considered for next year's City work program.

Port Geographe name change:

The change of name from Geographe to Port Geographe is getting closer with the full support of Council and we have been promised that it is receiving their undivided attention.

Speeding in the canals:

Following a meeting with Department of Transport, we have been assured that the policing of the canals, in terms of speeding and bad behavior and safety indiscretions will be stepped up.

We have already witnessed an increased presence over holiday long weekends, and it is proposed that some form of temporary speed radars will be operated at random times over the coming months.

Overflow boat trailer carpark:

We asserted that the gates of the overflow boat-trailer carpark were closed when it was most needed. We now note the gates are permanently open. So we hope to see less cars and trailers parked across road verges and vacant land areas.

Busselton Margaret River Airport:

Over the last few years, PGLOA has been represented by Steve O'Brien on the BMRA committee. Steve is to be congratulated, along with the other active members on the BMRA as we can all agree that the outcome will do wonders for our region and therefore Port Geographe. As Steve has moved on to more sedentary pastimes (President of the Capel Bowls Club) we are pleased to advise that PGLOA will continue its representation by Emma Dickson and when available Michelle Reilly.

Social Activities:

The much-anticipated Anchor View Christmas Party will be held again on the 1st December at 3.30pm. This function is open to all Port Geographe residents and although other streets have their own functions, everyone is welcome. Bring along your own food (BBQ provided), drinks, chairs and Santa outfits!!!

Please note, we will also judge the final photos to make up the 2020 Port Geographe calendar. These calendars have proved popular over the last 2 years as they represent all the good, funny and spectacular events that happen in Port Geographe.

Canals Alight:

Most of you may have received a note in your letterboxes about the 'exciting' residence competition, for the best canal lighting display!!! If not, let me explain. Aigle Royale, through the Newport Estate, is looking to create a tradition by making Port Geographe canals a destination to view the Christmas Lights. Spot participation prizes and a grand prize of \$1,000 for the best judged display are on offer, so let's try to brighten up the canals.

In addition, there will be, free canal cruises, running from The Deck Bar and Restaurant in December. Details will be posted at www.portgeochristmascruise.com.au To qualify 'Participation Prize Draw', simply email a photo of your Christmas lights display to mhector@aigleroyale.com.au by 1st December 2019 along with your name, phone number and street address.

The winners of the 'Participation Prize Draw' will be contacted via email on 5th December 2019.

This will build the image of Port Geographe. It is good to see that Lanyard Road folks are already swept up by the enthusiastic rivalry generated by beating your neighbor!!!

Email addresses:

We are endeavoring to get as many email addresses from residents and rate payers as this is our best way of communicating with everyone. It would be appreciated if you, your neighbors and friends could send in their details to portgeographe@gmail.com so we can update our lists.

Port entry dredging:

Although we object to our SAR monies being deployed for maintaining a public waterway, we certainly accept the necessity to keep the Port open by regular dredging. The marina and the canals are the heart and soul of Port Geographe.

It is with some dismay we saw the resurrection of adverse criticism of the performance of the

reconfigured groynes in a recent community newspaper. This criticism is ill-informed, incorrect, unjustified and damaging to the successful image of Port Geographe.

PGLOA Committee follows the groyne performance very closely, and does its own technical studies of sand and wrack movement. These studies are on our website. Our view is that the port entrance will require dredging twice per year even when natural sand bypassing from Western Beach commences in the next year or two. Dredging is a fact for the future.

Although we are disturbed with the lack of quantitative reporting by DoT in their periodic updates, we believe the dredging is being done effectively and with careful consideration for coastal management. In the dredging campaigns, sand-rich material is discharged close to Wonnerup Beach, and material with much sea-grass wrack is discharged off-shore. The periodic build-up of wrack on Wonnerup Beach is a natural phenomenon and is **not** related to dredging campaigns. If you had seen the 3-metre build-up of wrack around the Busselton Jetty in July this year you would agree. And the occasional smells come from decaying algae in the wetlands – not the sea wrack. PGLOA has striven to slay the dragons of bad image that are nearing extinction, but occasionally get resurrected by thoughtless comment and inaccurate reporting. Please talk up the virtues of Port Geographe and help stamp out the dry shoots of discontent.

We wish you a merry Christmas and happy New Year.

With compliments of the PGLOA Committee.



Peter Brinsden

23 November 2019