



CRREPA NEWS

Newsletter of the Canning River Residents Environment Protection Association (Inc)

Editors: Stephen Johnston and Sue Stanley

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STRENGTHS AND CHALLENGES IN CRREPA-CITY OF CANNING RELATIONSHIP

Despite a number of problems in CRREPA's relationship with the City of Canning over the past 18 months, it was still strong and respectful, CRREPA president Stephen Johnston told the Association's annual general meeting.

Stephen said the main problems began around the middle of 2021 with the resignations of two key staff members with whom CRREPA had worked very closely for a number of years and the disbandment of the City's Natural Areas Team. Late last year the two staff vacancies were filled and the Natural Areas Team reinstated but it remained severely understaffed and our concerns did not abate.

"Friends of Queens Park Bushland were also experiencing similar problems, so their convenor, Sian Mawson and Stephen met with two senior Canning Parks staff at the end of March to analyse why things had deteriorated and identify some initiatives that would help. While the meeting was very friendly and constructive, one of the Senior Parks staff at the meeting, Mary Ross, was soon to lose her Environment Manager's position because of a restructure and in September another long-serving Canning Environment officer, Jenni Andrews, moved to Exmouth. Between Mary and Jenni there was more than 40 years' of service to the Canning environment and both have always been very good friends of CRREPA."

In her response to a farewell card from CRREPA, Jenni said she recognised how significant the Canning environmental community was and how it had shaped her own professional life. "I am grateful that the community helped the City to understand the need to create the position of parks and conservation officer and the bush crew [Natural Areas Team]. I am grateful for the ongoing commitment, with enthusiasm undeterred by political will. Grateful for the continued passion and willingness to work together with the City. I have always been impressed with CRREPA, in particular for the professional way of dealing with issues and also sensible approach to responsibilities sharing."

Stephen said Jenni's parting sentiments reflected that despite the various changes and challenges our relationship with the City had fared pretty well. " This is firstly, because we recognise that staff turnover and staff shortages are affecting the whole national economy and no organisation is immune, secondly because our interactions have continued to be friendly and respectful despite some frustrations, and thirdly because the most problematic issues have not been about *what* needs to be done or *whether* it *should* be done, but rather..... *when* is it going to be done?"

Stephen said that such was the level of mutual reliance between CRREPA and the City of Canning upon each other to enhance the foreshore environment, that their relationship could be likened to a marriage in which separation was not an option. "The old adage *is* that you have to work on a marriage to make it work and that's what CRREPA will continue to do – particularly through Sue Stanley who has all the day-to-day operational contact with City staff. "



Stanley

COMMITTEE FAREWELLS AND WELCOMES

CRREPA farewelled one long-serving member of the committee at the AGM and welcomed two new members.

Bill Lambe retired as treasurer after seven years in the post. Bill and his wife, Sally, joined CRREPA in 1999 and became active foreshore volunteers about 12 years ago as their two boys became more independent. Bill initially served on the committee for a few years and acted as secretary for a while before becoming treasurer and membership officer in 2015. He held both positions until Liz Moore took over as membership officer in 2020.



In his acknowledgement of Bill, president Stephen Johnston said: “We all know how critical a good treasurer is to an organisation and it has been great to have Bill in this position with his meticulous attention to detail, wise counsel and good sense of what new initiatives might be desirable to improve our financial management and reporting. We thank you Bill very much for all your great work.”



Lea Hadley was elected to a vacancy on the general committee at the AGM. Lea joined CRREPA in 2021 after moving to Shelley from Willetton in 2007.

Lea said it was a privilege to walk alongside the Canning River and appreciate the flora and fauna. “Every day I learn and increase my knowledge and appreciation of the river and its surrounds. I had noticed volunteers from CRREPA weeding and watering along the river edge and when a neighbour invited me to the AGM I jumped at the chance. Being a member of CRREPA gives me the opportunity to meet other people interested in looking after the river and its environment and in volunteering in activities. Previously, as principal of a large primary school, supporting my family and daily walks with my dog didn’t leave much spare time for other interests”



While there were no nominations for treasurer before or during the AGM, in a most welcome response to an all-member email plea by Stephen for someone to fill the post, Sonia Langford nominated and was appointed. Sonia has lived in Willetton for more than 20 years and joined CRREPA around 2020 reflecting her interest in the natural environment and supporting local community organisations.

YOUR CRREPA COMMITTEE 2022—2023



President:	Stephen Johnston
Vice President:	
Secretary:	Madeline Radestock
Treasurer:	Sonia Langford
Foreshore Coordinator	Sue Stanley

Committee Members

Liz Moore Murray Radestock Lea Hadley

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS and THANK YOUs

We are very grateful for the support provided by DBCA, State NRM, Commonwealth Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources and:

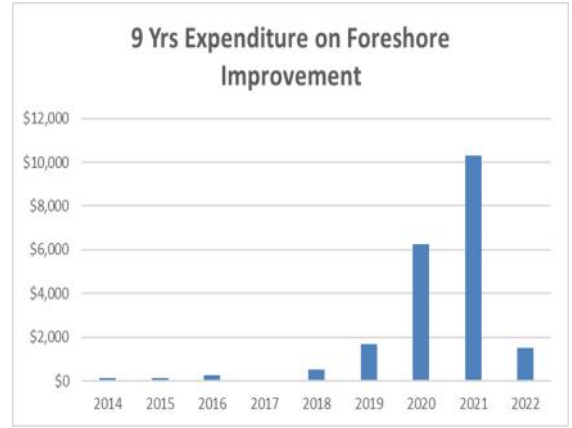


CRREPA REPORTS SURPLUS FOR 2021-22

CRREPA's retiring treasurer, Bill Lambe reported a surplus of \$1020.25 for 2021-22. Income for the 12 months was \$6688.98 of which \$6209 was in grants. The surplus brought CRREPA's cash reserves to \$11,118.19.

Bill's graph shows a steep increase in CRREPA's expenditure on foreshore improvement work in the nine years to 2021.

Membership officer, Liz Moore reported stable membership for the year with 160 members.



OUT AND ABOUT

