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A snapshot of
2020–21 Parks and Wildlife Service
volunteer projects



Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions



Foreword

Each year, more than 5000 volunteers provide invaluable support to the Parks and Wildlife Service by dedicating their time to park conservation, heritage values, research, delivering visitor services and much more. All this effort equates to more than 750,000 volunteer hours across the estate annually.

The Volunteer Coordination Unit supports Parks and Wildlife Service staff and community stakeholders to manage volunteer projects across Western Australia. The following pages feature a small representation of the breadth of work undertaken by volunteers in support of the Parks and Wildlife Service and its goals, and highlight the dedication, skills, knowledge and expertise that volunteers contribute.

The Department of Biodiversity, Conservations and Attractions (DBCA) acknowledges Aboriginal people as the Traditional Owners of the lands and waters it manages. All work carried out on lands and waters managed by DBCA, including by volunteers, respect and consider Aboriginal cultural values, to ensure their culture and heritage is protected now and into the future.

The information provided in this report allows us to share the achievements and successes of volunteers and provide inspiration for the future. The work volunteers do is strongly aligned to achieving Parks and Wildlife Service's goals around conserving Western Australia's special places and connecting people and parks, or in other words, visitor satisfaction.

While the Parks and Wildlife Service provides a range of recreation, environment and conservation services and facilities, support from volunteers is vital, adding value and enhancing services, research and overall enjoyment of national parks and the conservation estate. Without volunteers, we would be unable to reach our goals.

Volunteer Coordination Unit 2021

Below Hooded plovers at Skippy Rock. *Photo - Jenny Kikeros*

Cover Friends of Kattamorda volunteer. *Photo - B Benson*



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Kimberley Region

West Kimberley District

Cable Beach Community Turtle Monitoring Program

The Cable Beach Community Turtle Monitoring Program began in 2006 with the aim of raising awareness, conserving and protecting nesting and hatching flatback turtles on Cable Beach in Broome. The program has been managed by DBCA since 2014 and runs from November to March each year.

Volunteers walk the 6km stretch of beach every day during the nesting/hatching season to look for turtle activity. This is then recorded on tablet devices which is uploaded onto an online DBCA database.

In the 2020-21 season there were 70 volunteers involved in the program, who recorded 60 turtle nests and 29 false crawls (beaching and returning to water without laying eggs). One of the program's volunteers completed 75 hours of monitoring and three others completed 63 hours.

The addition of team leaders and a roster coordinator into the program this year assisted with volunteer management which will continue next season. Another addition to the program this season was public education walks; four walks were provided to the community to educate on flatback turtles, their nesting process, and the components of the volunteer program.

To prevent disturbance to nesting and hatching turtles, the Yawuru Park Council Working Group are completing a comprehensive review on the current vehicle arrangements on Cable Beach during nesting season. It is anticipated that this will reduce the number of vehicles on the beach during this time.



Above Cable Beach Community Turtle Monitoring volunteers. *Photo - DBCA*

Pilbara Region

Exmouth District

Ningaloo Turtle Program

The Ningaloo Turtle Program was established in 2002 as a collaborative initiative between DBCA, Cape Conservation Group Inc., Murdoch University and the World Wildlife Fund Australia. The mission of the program is to predict long-term trends in marine turtle populations along the Ningaloo Coast, and to build a culture of awareness and stewardship for marine turtle conservation.

Volunteers walk beaches in the early mornings and record information such as the abundance, distribution and species of turtle nests, observations of tagged turtles, strandings, and mortalities, rescue stranded turtles when appropriate and monitor predation and disturbance.

In 2020-21, 16 external volunteers and 36 Exmouth locals participated in the monitoring, contributing over 5000 volunteer hours. They undertook monitoring of key beaches along the Jurabi Coastal Park (over 39 days), Cape Range National Park (27 days) and Nyinggulu Coastal Reserves (17 days). Over 30,000 turtle tracks were recorded from green, loggerhead and hawksbill turtles, making it the second busiest season on record.

2020-21 was the first season the program had a dedicated turtle rescue squad for a couple of weeks, whose job was to patrol certain rocky stretches of eroded coastline where turtles were regularly becoming stuck. Over 40 breeding female turtles were rescued from being wedged in rocks or exhausted from wandering too far inland and returned to the ocean.

The program aims to continue the excellent work of monitoring of nesting turtles along the Ningaloo Coast, and continue to raise awareness of marine turtle conservation.

Below Recording turtle tracks.

Inset The program's dedicated turtle rescue team in action. *Photos - DBCA*



Pilbara Region

Exmouth District

West Pilbara Turtle Program

The West Pilbara Turtle Program began in 2005 as a partnership between the Parks and Wildlife Service and Rio Tinto, bringing together industry, government and the community to monitor turtle nesting in and around Karratha, and to raise awareness on the importance of local beaches for turtle conservation. The program involves volunteers monitoring beaches on mornings in November, December and January to inform decisions on turtle management in the local area and improve community awareness and knowledge on nesting turtles in the region.

In 2020-21, 55 volunteers helped with beach monitoring and local events. Volunteers covered 60 days of monitoring at four local beaches providing invaluable information about the turtle nesting activity at these locations. Volunteers also fenced turtle nests in areas at threat of being driven over by four-wheel drive vehicles and supported the education of the local community by participating at two beach clean-ups and events.

For World Turtle Day (May 23), the program's volunteers promoted marine turtle conservation on social media. Children from the region submitted photos of their turtle craft to raise awareness of marine turtles. The winner received a prize to support local businesses and was celebrated with a video posted on the group's Facebook page.

To celebrate Sea Week (6-14 March 2021), the program's volunteers held an event at a local beach that brought together industry, government and private business to showcase the marine environment and educate the community about marine conservation. The program's mascot, Frankie the Flatback Turtle, was there to entertain the kids and led a "turtle tucker" tour to get the community thinking about what turtles eat.

The partnership with Rio Tinto has been renewed to 2022. The program plans to continue training volunteers in turtle monitoring methods, undertake further community events and conduct night tours to watch nesting turtles. The program also plans to involve local Traditional Owners more regularly to benefit from their knowledge about turtles.

Below West Pilbara Turtle Program volunteers undergo training. *Photo - DBCA*



South West Region

Blackwood District

Capes Hooded Plover Project

The volunteer group formed in 2018 as a collaboration between DBCA and Birdlife Australia to train volunteers to monitor and report hooded plovers and other beach nesting birds between Cape Leeuwin and Cape Naturaliste in the south west. Hooded plovers or 'Hoodies' are a cryptic, priority species which nest on sandy beaches and lakes throughout southern Western Australia. Each year 30-40 Hoodies inhabit the coastline from Dunsborough to Augusta where they attempt to nest on some of the region's busiest beaches during the spring and summer period.

Trained volunteers undertake regular surveys along the vast coastline focusing on detecting Hoodie breeding activity and report findings via an online data portal. When a nest is located volunteers contact Parks and Wildlife staff who can initiate management such as fencing and signage to help protect the nest and increase chicks' chances of survival.

In 2020-21, thirty volunteers undertook 325 survey sessions, with 191 of these surveys reporting sightings. Hoodies are well camouflaged and their nests, which are just scrapes in the sand, are especially difficult to detect. Volunteers have been trained in what to look for and how to watch the bird's behaviour for clues on nest activity and location. Through some fantastic detective work 11 nests were located, seven of which were able to be fenced and signed by Parks and Wildlife to reduce the chance of disturbance by beachgoers and increase their chances of hatching.

One of these nests, at Boodjidup beach, was discovered by volunteers in early January, and was quickly fenced by DBCA staff. The nest was monitored closely, and three tiny chicks were reported hatching later in January. Once hatched, these well camouflaged chicks are even harder to detect as they are highly mobile and forage along the beach with their parents, hiding whenever danger is near. The keen observation skills of volunteers were able to follow the fate of this family and confirm that 1 chick survived to fledging on March 15, 2021, which is a fantastic outcome at such a popular beach over the summer holiday period.

The volunteers will continue to record any hooded plover sightings over the off season and will be back searching beaches and interpreting Hoodie behaviour in spring ready to detect breeding activity.

A training session for new volunteers is held at the start of the breeding season in September for anyone with a keen eye who wants to help conserve threatened wildlife whilst walking along some of our region's most stunning beaches.

"I love collecting data on hooded plovers as it aids in their conservation and who doesn't love a beach walk!"

Natalie Bell, volunteer

Below Volunteers closely followed this Plover family on Boodjidup beach during the 2020-21 nesting season. *Photo - Natalie Bell*

Inset Hooded plover. *Photo - Jenny Kikeros*



Swan Region

Rivers and Estuary Division

Jane Brook Catchment Group (Healthy Catchments Program)

In 1989 concern for the health of Jane Brook brought local residents together to form the Bugle Tree Creek–Jane Brook Catchment Group. The group was incorporated in 1999; the same year they received their first Swan Alcoa Landcare Program grant. The group work closely with East Region Catchment Management Program to align with strategic programs and the latest research.

The group supports 23 active Friends Groups in the Jane Brook catchment area by seeking and managing funding, liaising with government, helping develop and implement land care action plans, undertaking on-ground projects and providing volunteer insurance, advice and networking opportunities.

In 2020-21, due to COVID restrictions, the group reimagined general meetings into walk and talk shared experiences. The meetings are hosted at different Friends' reserves and were very popular resulting in greater attendances and enjoyment of meetings. They also successfully sought and received \$50,000 of Landcare grant funding for Friends of John Forrest National Park (Glen Forrest), Friends of Falls Park (Hovea), Pioneer Park (Mt Helena) and Friends of Lion Mill Creek (Mt Helena). Most grant funding is for weed control and planting to improve the natural value of the Jane Brook Catchment.

The group also supports the Friends of Provenience Seed who have organised a nursery in a member's back yard that will provide free seedlings, including local native grasses, to Friends Groups within Jane Brook Catchment.

The group will continue to support existing Friends Groups and engage new Friends Groups to work strategically together, seek more project funding and to continue partnerships with stakeholders including DBCA, Shire of Mundaring, City of Swan and the ERCMP.

Below Jane Brook Catchment Group walk and talk. Photo - Friends of Lake McLarty



Swan Region

Perth Hills District

Friends of John Forrest National Park

The Friends of John Forrest volunteers work closely with DBCA and conservationists to protect and conserve the natural environment of John Forrest National Park in the Shire of Mundaring. The group does this primarily through weed control activities of species such as watsonia, which had previously dominated large areas of the park.

The group was formed by Joe and Jan King who, after a decade of service, stood down from leading the group at the end of 2020. The new committee leads the group in undertaking volunteer recruitment, grant applications, weed surveys, liaising with DBCA, equipment preparation and inventory, marketing, social media and organising bush care days.

Since 2014, the group's volunteers have contributed more than 10,000 hours and received six grants totaling \$164,515. Most recently, the group received \$24,750 through the Western Australian Government's State National Resource Management Program. The grant will be used for control of geophyte weeds (Freesias) in John Forrest National Park this year.



At the end of 2020, Joe and Jan were awarded with the top honour at the Parks and Wildlife Service Volunteer of the Year Awards.

For the volunteers, being a part of the group is about more than just weeding, it develops pride in the place they live and fosters friendships over a common goal.

Below Volunteers on the job.

Inset Joe and Jan King, winners of the Parks and Wildlife Service 2020 Volunteer of the Year Awards. *Photos - DBCA*



Swan Region

Perth Hills District

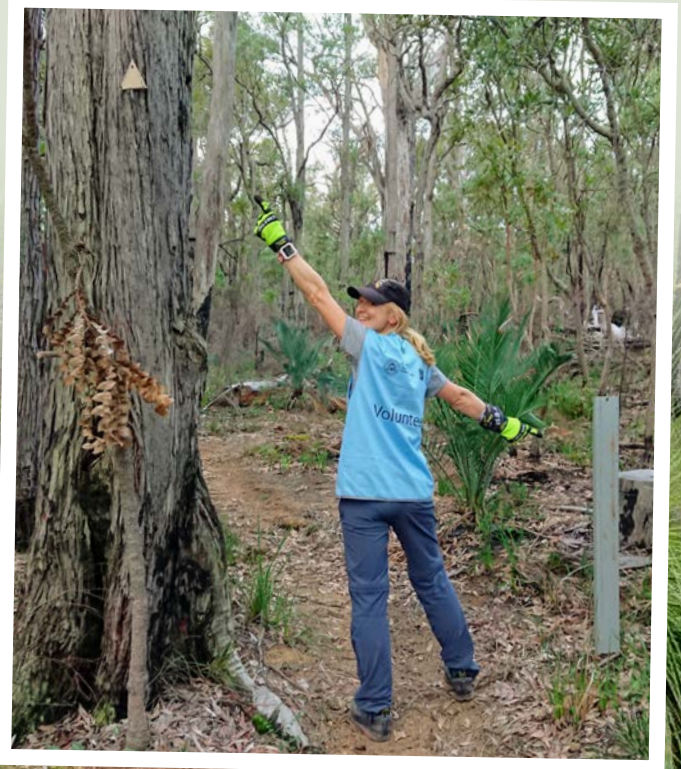
Friends of Kattamorda

The Friends of Kattamorda was formed in May 2018 by Bernadette Benson, a trail runner. She had been running in the area and clearing the overgrown 30km Kattamorda Heritage Trail in Korung National Park and created the group for interested community members to work together to maintain a clear, well-marked and well-kept trail in perpetuity. The primary aims of the group are trail maintenance and rubbish collection.

In 2020, 28km of trail was re-marked with Ezi-drive posts and a specially designed totem, a potoroo footprint. A \$5,000 City of Kalamunda grant enabled the replacement of some out-of-date infrastructure. Behind the scenes, benches and picnic tables have been built and will soon be installed. Improvements, such as erosion control measures, began on the trail and are continually being made as volunteer time permits. Collaborations with local community and businesses that intersect the trail are being developed to enhance awareness of the trail and improved trail experiences for the user. This includes a gazebo and picnic table that will be installed at Pickering Brook Sports Club, close to the trail.

The group's goals for the next couple of years include marking the remaining section of trail through the Gungin-Dell area, which will then permit new trailhead signage at Hardinge Park and Mundaring Sculpture Parks. Replacing worn out routing signs and other old or missing interpretive signs is also planned.

Below Carrying out maintenance of Kattamorda Heritage Trail.
Inset In 2020, sections of trail were re-marked. *Photos - B Benson*



Swan Region

Regional Parks

Set aside for their conservation, recreation and landscape values, regional parks are urban havens and offer shelter to animals and plants, as well as to the people who visit them.

The focus of regional parks is on preserving and restoring valuable natural ecosystems and cultural heritage values, while at the same time encouraging a range of sustainable nature-based recreation activities in settings of great natural character.

DBCA works closely with local government authorities, community groups and other government agencies to ensure that park management strategies consider a wide range of public opinion, expertise and interests.

There are 11 regional parks in the Swan District Region, seven in the Swan Coastal District and four in the Perth Hills District.

The following articles provide an insight into the valuable work volunteers contribute to regional parks.

Below Canning River Regional Park. *Photo - DBCA*



Swan Region

Regional Parks

Canning River Regional Park

Canning River Regional Parks Volunteers

The Canning River Regional Park Volunteers began in 1990 as Canning River Regional Park Guides. The group currently has 33 active members who work on around 10 project sites in the Canning River Regional Park. 2020 marked the 30th anniversary of the group.

The group undertakes conservation and restoration activities of natural areas in the regional park and supports the City of Canning through community activities which help to promote and benefit the Park. The group undertakes monthly Saturday workdays and weekly Monday morning work sessions and conducts other projects when required.

In 2020-21, the group worked on several projects, including undertaking their 34th bird survey, the completion of a Microbat Project which identified species that use the park and their food preferences, publishing a brochure to promote the group's work to the community, undertaking a Clean Up Australia Day event and planting thousands of seedlings at Ferndale Flats, Queens Park Bushland and Lambertia Creek

The group will continue conservation and restoration activities on current sites, with further planting at Billabong and Litoria Stage 7 Sites planned. A sedge rescue operation from a proposed development site in Canning is also planned. Annual activities such as bird surveys and Clean Up Australia Day will continue.

Below Volunteers busy planting and weeding. *Photo - DBCA*

Founding member Jo Stone has been part of the group since 1989. Jo says she is motivated by her love of the environment and her local area, which she believes we all have a responsibility to look after.



Swan Region

Regional Parks

Yellagonga Regional Park

Woodvale Waters Friends of Beenyup Channel

The Woodvale Waters Friends of Beenyup Channel was formed in 2015 to rehabilitate an area in southern Yellagonga Regional Park, City of Joondalup and improve and enhance the area for local residents and other visitors. The group undertakes landcare activities such as removing weeds and planting sedges, eucalypts, melaleuca, banksia and other plant species native to the area. The goal of these activities is to improve the water quality flowing into the southern end of Lake Joondalup and to improve and extend habitat for the many native animals and birds that use the channel area.

The group works collaboratively with DBCA, local councils and local aboriginal groups to encourage community involvement in rehabilitating and protecting this important section of Yellagonga Regional Park.

In 2020-21, the group undertook many activities such as mapping the area into 14 zones to guide for future planned works, took photographs to record of progress in these areas over time, cleared several areas in readiness for a planting program, held a community planting day in July 2020 where approximately 3000 sedges and trees were planted, hand watered planted seedlings and submitted a Natural Resource Management grant application to cover a 3-year rehabilitation / revegetation project.

The group plans to continue the important rehabilitation and revegetation program currently underway, explore ways to increase nutrient uptake from water flowing through the channel and to encourage greater community involvement in the rehabilitation projects.

Below Black swan and cygnets. *Photo - DBCA*

Inset right Replanting underway at Woodvale waters. *Photo - B Saunders*



Swan Region

Swan Coastal District

Western Australia Herbarium - Specimen Mounting Program

The Western Australian Herbarium houses the State's collections of botanical specimens, including flowering plants, mosses, lichens, algae, and fungi. The Herbarium has an active volunteer Mounting Program, with more than 30 current members. Of the more than 815,000 specimens, almost 350,000 specimens have been mounted by Volunteers since the program began in August 1990. With a little under 10,000 new collections submitted to the Herbarium each year, the mounting step of the specimen processing workflow continues to be an essential volunteer role.

The task of the Mounting Program Volunteers is to securely attach dried pressed specimens onto archival boards using archival glue-backed linen tape. This ensures the botanical specimen is not separated from its unique identifier and valuable collection data, as well as providing support and protection. Bulkier specimens require some attachment by sewing, and other collections, such as mosses, lichens, and fungi are housed within small boxes.

During 2020-2021, the Mounting Program Volunteers overcame the challenges resulting from the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and the associated shutdowns, social distancing, increased importance in hygiene and surface cleaning, and have maintained a high quantity of mounting specimens. The year also saw changes in techniques, with Herbarium staff pre-preparing specimens for mounting, the implementation of a team effort for the completion of boxes of specimens rather than the one-person, one-box procedure previously used, and a shift away from the sewing of specimens and use of polyester transparent (sticky) tape to using archival glue-backed linen tape. With the dedication of our new and returning volunteers, and constant improvement of the mounting techniques, the Herbarium has been able to maintain and improve on our processing efficiencies. The specimen mounting project encourages volunteers with a wide age range of skills and expertise, and we were thrilled that teenager Felix Nicholls was the first recipient of the DBCA Young Volunteer of the Year Award in 2020.

In the coming year, the Mounting Program will continue to explore and develop new skills for best practice in maintaining and housing collections. We continue to encourage students and life-long-learners to gain experience in the management and handling of botanical collections by becoming Mounting Program Volunteers as positions become available – for the long-term preservation, documentation, knowledge, and conservation of Western Australia's rich botanical diversity.

The specimen mounting project encourages volunteers with a wide age range of skills and expertise, and we were thrilled that teenager Felix Nicholls was the first recipient of the DBCA Young Volunteer of the Year Award in 2020.

Right Felix Nicholls, DBCA Young Volunteer of the Year 2020 with former Environment Minister Stephen Dawson. Photo - DBCA



Swan Region

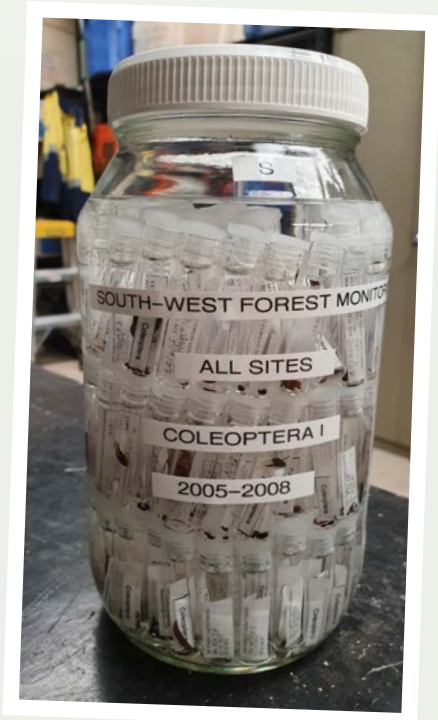
Swan Coastal District

Wetlands Conservation – Aquatic Invertebrate Curation

This volunteer project is based at DBCA headquarters in Kensington as part of the Ecosystem Science Program. It was established in the Wetlands laboratory in January 2016, from a need to curate a large volume of aquatic fauna specimens collected from wetland survey and monitoring work conducted across the State over a 20-year period. The material had historically been stored in plastic vials which had severely degraded and needed to be transferred to glass and preserved for long-term storage.

Volunteers work in the laboratory to move aquatic fauna specimens from the degraded plastic vials into newly labelled small glass storage vials. Material from each survey is stored together in large, labelled jars for long-term preservation. Volunteers are given the opportunity to develop skills in microscope use as well as learning to identify major groups of aquatic invertebrate fauna.

The main achievement of 2020-21 was the curation of a large long-term stream monitoring project which the volunteers had been working on for the past couple of years. Material had been collected from more than 50 forest stream sites in the south-west of Western Australia over a 10-year period. It had culminated in a large volume of material which had started to deteriorate in cracked, degraded plastic vials. Specimens from more than 3,100 vials were transferred to glass storage vials during the curation process, to ensure the long-term preservation of this collection.



These collections are an extremely important resource for researchers in the field of wetland science, who use these archival collections to resolve species identifications, or enable new species descriptions. The volunteers therefore play a crucial role in ensuring the long-term viability of these important collections.

The group is now in its sixth year of operation and to date has curated specimens into more than 11,500 new vials, across 15 different surveys/ projects. With the bulk of the archived material now complete, the plan will be to finalise the archival material, before moving on to the curation of more recently collected material.

Above Wetlands Conservation samples.

Left Wetlands Conservation volunteer. *Photos - DBCA*



Swan Region

Swan Coastal District

Yanchep National Park Volunteer Association

Yanchep National Park Volunteer Association was formed in 1995 to formalise a group of local people who were passionate about conserving their local National Park. The group has volunteers from a wide variety of backgrounds including students, retirees and special needs volunteers. School, community and corporate groups also volunteer their time to assist with conservation projects.

The group supports the park management through conservation and maintenance projects, including the wildflower garden and memorial garden maintenance, flora, fauna and water monitoring, managing a native plant nursery, revegetation, walk-trail maintenance, weed control and rubbish collection. The group also assist visitor management by directing and answering questions.

2020-21 was a productive year, despite the challenges the group faced. Following the December 2019 fire at Yanchep National Park, post-fire weed control was the focus. To supplement manual weed removal and increase productivity, six volunteers completed DBCA's Weed Management course, enabling volunteers to assist with the weed spraying program. Funds received from a Federal Government grant awarded for Wetland Restoration were utilised to purchase spraying equipment and personal protective equipment. Volunteers have also expanded the water monitoring program by utilising wells made during the 2019 fire and installing new gauge boards and ground water monitoring wells.

Lots of work was put into beautifying the Wildflower Garden, with volunteers propagating local plant species in the nursery and then taking responsibility for ongoing maintenance including planting, weeding, pruning, mulching and raking pathways.

The group plans to implement a long-term weed management program targeting declared pest species Noogoora burr, and other local high priority weeds, by using chemical and manual methods. The group will also continue to nurture partnerships with local schools to educate local children about environmental issues and give them ownership and pride in their local national park.



Below Yanchep National Park.

Inset Yanchep volunteers. *Photos - DBCA*



Swan Region

Swan Coastal District

The Friends of Lake McLarty

Lake McLarty is located in Birchmont within the Shire of Murray and is part of the Peel–Yalgorup System.

The Friends of Lake McLarty was formed in January 2014 and consists of local residents and other environmentally concerned individuals. The overall aim of the group is to maintain a viable freshwater lake in pristine condition for birds, macro-invertebrates and aquatic plants to flourish. This is achieved through protecting, managing and advocating for the protection of the lake, and by working closely with DBCA and the Peel Harvey Catchment Council.

The group undertakes activities such as annual vegetative surveys across the lake floor, ongoing Typha and weed eradication, annual re-vegetation of habitat, monthly water monitoring and water quality sampling, and annual macro-invertebrate sampling.

In 2020-21 they worked on several projects, including creating a 'Living Stream' with DBCA. This project involved the planting of some 5000 sedges along a nearby swale to filter nutrients from surface water to improve the water quality in Lake McLarty. Twenty-five thousand plants were also planted, and the fifth annual vegetation survey of the lake floor was undertaken. The group also assisted in the development of a project which will help define the stratigraphy of the lake and much of its groundwater effects.

A key challenge for Lake McLarty is decreased water levels. The group plans to continue working with partners to explore ways to get additional water into the lake to better prepare the migratory wading birds for the flight to their breeding grounds in the far Northern Hemisphere.



Above Lake McLarty Sedge planters.

Wheatbelt Region

Southern Wheatbelt District

Lakes District Regional Herbarium and Rare Flora Volunteers

The Lakes District Regional Herbarium and Rare Flora Volunteers has a long and interesting history. In the 1970s and 80s, local volunteers collected *Verticordias* for Elizabeth George, a well-known wildflower advocate and author, and were involved in the development of the Conservation and Land Management (CALM) Banksia Atlas (1988). In 1990, CALM organised a formal training session for flora volunteers which became the Newdegate Rare Flora volunteer group. The group started a Regional Herbarium in Newdegate in 1994. The group's membership base expanded and so in 2003 the name was changed to Lakes District Regional Herbarium and Rare Flora Volunteers.

The group's goal is to protect and promote the district's native flora, and its activities include assisting DBCA and local groups with conservation projects; collecting and cataloguing native plant specimens, lodging duplicate plant specimens with the WA Herbarium, and surveying rare flora. To date, over 2000 plant specimens have been collected for the regional herbarium, and 40 new populations of rare flora have been found; five of these populations are species that have now been taken off the declared rare flora list.

Three very dry years in the district have meant poor flowering seasons especially in 2020 and the beginning of 2021, which limited the local survey work carried out by the group. Involvement in 2020-21 projects has been mainly with the WA Wildflower Society, which includes a survey of Lake Magenta Buffer Burns and Wheatbelt woodlands and work at Tarin Rock Nature Reserve. *Verticordia setacea* Priority 2 survey was also carried out for the Lake Grace Shire.

Recent rains give hope for a good wildflower season in 2021. Multiple excursions are planned, including to Tarin Rock Nature Reserve; in honour of the publication of a new book on the flora of the reserve by Jolanda Keeble, surveying new areas at Lake King Nature Reserve, and celebrating 30 years since the Group's first official excursion in 1991.

Below Volunteers looking for nesting sites of Carnaby's cockatoos *Photo - A Rick*



Statewide / multi-region projects

Adopt an Orchid Program (ADORP)

The ADORP commenced in 2011 as a collaboration between the WA Native Orchid Study and Conservation Group (WANOSCG) and DBCA. Volunteers assist in surveying and monitoring Priority-listed orchids in the south-west land division and provide this information to DBCA, improving knowledge of the species' ecology, biology and conservation status to enhance their conservation in the wild.

Teams of up to six volunteers are assigned one or more orchid species and provided with an information pack containing relevant details of each orchid. These teams survey known orchid locations and potential new locations, noting plant numbers, habitat details, threats and any other relevant information to be incorporated into DBCA's corporate database.

In 2020-21, ADORP teams surveyed 59 orchid species and provided 265 reports to DBCA. Of these reports, 58 were new locations, thus expanding the distribution of some of the rarer orchids. Some of the more remote areas were surveyed this year, enabling checking of older records and discovery of new locations.

Two species with small known population sizes and limited distribution ranges were surveyed more intensely, resulting in several new populations being located for each species. A direct outcome of the volunteers' work, it now seems likely that further populations will be located, reducing the risk that these two species are under serious threat.

Surveys around the recent bushfire-affected Stirling Range National Park located a fire-stimulated Priority 2 orchid, *Cyanicula ixiooides* subsp. *candida*, that had previously only been recorded around Perth. This has extended the known range of this orchid by hundreds of kilometres.

Some ADORP teams are also contributing to taxonomic studies that will assist in the naming of some undescribed orchids, and to writing nominations to list species as threatened.

ADORP plans to continue to monitor and survey Priority orchid populations with current threatening processes or that require better information on their status and locate new populations. Orchids that have been monitored for ten years and have stable populations can be surveyed on a less frequent basis, thus allowing other Priority orchids to be targeted

Below left Volunteers conduct a survey in Harvey Korijekup Reserve. Photo - U Kokosinska

Below right *Cyanicula ixiooides* subsp. *candida*. Photo - K Uhe



Campground Hosts

Campground hosts volunteer their time in national parks around the State to carry out a variety of roles associated with park and visitor management.

Since it was launched in 1991, hundreds of people have taken part in the campground host program, volunteering their time in campgrounds in national parks. These volunteers have spent time in some of Western Australia's most beautiful spots, met many fascinating people and formed memories that will last a lifetime.

Campground hosts help with a variety of official tasks such as welcoming campers and visitors to a national park. Unofficially, they are experts with inside knowledge of local walk trails, swimming holes and the best fishing spots.

Cape Arid National Park, on the State's South Coast, has campground hosts during the peak summer season. Not only do they help with campers, but they also love getting their hands dirty refurbishing and painting timber signs and picnic tables, pulling weeds, constructing sheds, dragging roads, trimming walk trails, maintaining (and sometimes reviving) tools, installing water tanks, gates, signs, bollards, roadside markers and visitor boxes.

The visitor box on top of Mt Ragged was recently replaced by campground hosts and involved a difficult climb. The hosts were in their 70s, upholding the image of campground hosts being inspirational people who embody the concept of aging well.

"Campground hosting for us is an opportunity to share with visitors camping destinations Western Australia has to offer and gives us the chance to visit different locations. During our Cape Arid stays, we have felt welcomed within the Parks and Wildlife Service community. We have visited many national parks as campground hosts and knowing we can go back to these spots and share what they have to offer is a bonus and a privilege."

Lindsay and Carol Roy

Below A spectacular view from one of the campsites in Cape Arid National Park. *Photo - V Herring*

Inset Campground hosts Lindsay and Carol Roy. *Photo - DBCA*



The Wildflower Society Plant Survey Program

The Wildflower Society, through the Society's Plant Survey Program, has been contributing to flora and vegetation studies of lands in the south-west of Western Australia managed by DBCA and other government, and private lands, since 1988. The program has trained hundreds of individuals, community groups, and industry and government natural environment workers in flora and vegetation survey skills. Volunteers undertake quadrat-based vegetation surveys, prepare field Herbariums and report findings.



The camaraderie of the group is a very significant part of the program. Volunteers, botanists, coordinators and landholders all enjoy the opportunities presented in the survey to work in the beautiful wild places of the south-west as part of a motivated and supportive group, and so contribute positively to the conservation of Western Australia's bushland.

In 2019-20, several projects were undertaken. In Tutanning Nature reserve 20 km east of Pingelly, six of the nine Kwongan patches surveyed in the 1980s and resampled in 2010 were resampled with data sent for analysis. In October 2020, four quadrats in Lake Magenta Nature Reserve, set up to monitor regeneration after fire, were resurveyed, as was a pit trap site as part of the Heath Mice research project. The information gathered may help to explain why these little marsupials are disappearing from the reserve, such as dry seasons and a change in plant species and condition of vegetation. Volunteers also surveyed several Eucalypt woodlands threatened ecological communities on private property in the Wheatbelt to assist with management.

The group plans to continue surveying flora and vegetation on department managed and other lands.

Above York survey.

Below Volunteers carrying out wildflower survey. *Photos - V Longman*



For more information about volunteering with DBCA's Parks and Wildlife service, please visit dbca.wa.gov.au/volunteering or email pwsvolunteers@dbca.wa.gov.au.

On behalf of everyone at the Parks and Wildlife Service we would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to all volunteers for their incredible contribution to volunteering during 2020-21, and their friends and family who support them in their work.

Volunteer Coordination Unit 2021

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