

New recruit for our heritage unit

Department of Conservation and Land Management supports the International Year of the Volunteer



THE Indigenous Heritage Unit has a new addition—an enthusiastic personable 17-year-old has joined its ranks in a unique traineeship role.

Daniel Lawrence started working for the unit in July, under the guidance of Noel Nannup and Koodah Cornwall.

The traineeship—the first of its kind for the Department—involves a unique structured workplace learning placement that has been developed by Mirrabooka High School, TAFE and the Department.

It involves Daniel attending school, TAFE and a work placement as part of his education. Under this agreement, Daniel is paid to train with the Department every Wednesday.

When asked about how he likes his traineeship so far, Daniel was all smiles.

“It is a real buzz working with all

types of all people and undertaking Department’s activities, particularly the guided tours, which gives me a chance to add my own style,” he said.

“What I have enjoyed the most so far was the first guided tour I did at Point Walter on my own. I enjoy being asked questions from tourists and the general discussion that follows.

“I also liked being taken through Wildlife Branch and learning about how the system of wildlife protection works, and seeing seized reptiles and the equipment used for smuggling them.”

Daniel said the traineeship was like a dream come true as it enabled him to be involved in the planning of his own training schedule in a field he was keen to continue in.

“My goal is to be cultural interpretative officer and to continue working with the Department after my

studies are finished,” he said.

“I would really like to specialise in cultural heritage and study further and find out more about Aboriginal culture and my own roots.

“I would also like to teach and advise younger kids and provide leadership among my own people later in my life.”

Indigenous Heritage Unit Manager Noel Nannup said Daniel was a valuable addition to the team and he hoped that all future training recruits were like him.

Snakes alive for volunteer

IT'S that time of the year when things start hotting up for Bruce George.

The 43-year-old is a volunteer reptile rescuer with the Department of Conservation and Land Management.

He's already receiving about five calls per day from people in the metropolitan area who may have a reptile in their backyard.

by Tracy Peacock

At the peak of summer he can get up to eight calls a day.

But it's all good fun for Bruce, a night-shift worker who has been fascinated with reptiles, he says, since childhood, and has been a reptile rescuer with the Department since 1989.

He recalls a case last year when he received a call from the police at 2.30am because a dugite had made its way from Kings Park to the steps of the Federal Police headquarters.

Being a volunteer has provided an enormous amount of pleasure for Bruce.

“I get so much satisfaction that knowing in my heart that I've saved

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