Thank you volunteers

THE contribution of volunteers to conservation was recognised at a celebration to mark the International Day of Volunteers at Matilda Bay earlier this month.

Environment and Heritage Minister Dr Judy Edwards presented awards and certificates of appreciation to the Department's volunteers who work in a wide range of projects conserving the environment and ecosystems.

More than 1600 people contributed almost 200,000 hours during the last year towards the Department's activities—nearly triple the 70,000 hours volunteered five years ago.

Added to that were countless hours donated by 770 wildlife carers.

Volunteers who willingly give their time and energy come from all walks of life - students, retired people, full-time and part-time workers, unemployed people and home makers.

Their activities ranged from assistance in wildlife management and research to forest research, information services, interpretation, wildflower management, visitor surveys, park planning, park management, coastal rehabilitation, erosion control, historical research and work experience.

The winners of the Volunteer of the Year awards were: Eggy Boggs of Dalkeith who volunteers at the Shoalwater Islands; Gregg Thorn of Kalamunda who writes and publishes the Wildcare newsletter and assists with shopping centre displays and activities at The Hills Forest Discovery Centre; and Jane Scott of Witchcliffe who assisted with the Cape to Cape walk trail.

Outstanding service awards were presented to Reg Bebbington of Safety Bay, Brenda James of Yanchep, Alan Compton of Redcliffe, Denise Gillies of Dardanup and Robert and Beth Boase of Dowerin.



Environment and Heritage Minister, Dr Judy Edwards (centre) surrounded by the three Volunteers of the Year, Eggy Boggs (left) who has organised the roster at Penguin Island for eight years, Gregg Thorn (second from left) who writes the Wildcare newsletter and Jane Scott (right) who assisted with the Cape to Cape Walk Trail. The Department's Volunteer Co-ordinator Marg Buckland (behind the Minister) and Acting Executive Directer Keiran McNamara (second from right) were also at the ceremony.

Photo by Ernie McLintock





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