



In this issue

- Celebration marks Munda Bididi Trail opening
- Bush Rangers WA celebrates 15 years in style
- Miriuwung-Gajerrong rangers share insights
- News in brief

Volunteers adopt a jetty to protect marine wildlife

Pilbara staff trained in fox baiting

Next phase in air quality study begins

Funding for waste-reduction projects

Published by the Department of Environment and Conservation's Strategic Development and Corporate Affairs Division, Cygnet Hall, (cnr) Mounts Bay Road and Hackett Drive, CRAWLEY, WA 6009.

Managing editor: Catherine Vann

Editor: Joanna Moore

Contributors: Catherine Jack, Liz Grant, Emma O'Leary, Mitzi Vance, Karla Forrest

Design and production: Peter Nicholas

Telephone: (08) 9389 4000

Email: ecn@dec.wa.gov.au

Celebration marks Munda Bididi Trail opening

WESTERN Australia is now home to the world's longest continuous off-road cycle track, following the completion of the Munda Bididi Trail's southern section.

Environment Minister Albert Jacob opened the 1,000-kilometre trail in April at the Festival of Cycling in Mundaring, where the first cyclists to complete the newly extended trail crossed the finish line.

"The final section of the trail on the south coast is now open and I am delighted to celebrate the completion of this significant project, which has been 12 years in the making," Mr Jacob said.

"Creating nature-based tourism opportunities is something the state government is strongly committed to, and the Munda Bididi Trail is a great example of that."

"More than 20,000 international, interstate and local cyclists use the Munda Bididi every year, and that number is set to grow now the trail has been completed."

Regional Development Minister Brendon Grylls said the Munda Bididi Trail now extended from Mundaring to Albany and passed Jarrahdale, Dwellingup, Collie, Donnybrook, Boyanup, Nannup, Manjimup, Quinninup, Pemberton, Walpole and Denmark, as well as other smaller communities.

"This tourism icon will inject millions into the local economy and be a major boost for towns and communities situated along the trail," Mr Grylls said.

Since 2009, the trail has been enhanced by a contribution of three million dollars from the South West and Great Southern development commissions through the state government's Royalties for Regions program, with DEC also

committing more than one million dollars to the project during this time.

DEC Recreation and Trails Unit Coordinator Stuart Harrison expressed his thanks to all the DEC and Munda Bididi Trail Foundation staff and volunteers, both past and present, for their assistance over the years in getting the trail on the ground.

"We've received very positive feedback from the end-to-end riders on their experiences, and the trail they cycled over the last three weeks," Stuart said.

"This is really down to the combined efforts of a lot of people over many, many years.

"A big thank you also goes to the DEC regional and district staff that met the Epic 1000 riders, who were the first to complete the extended trail. Their hospitality and that of their local communities was well appreciated by the riders and the foundation."



Acting Director General Jim Sharp, Environment Minister Albert Jacob and Chair of the Munda Bididi Trail Foundation Ron Colman officially open the trail.



The riders who completed the Well|drill Munda Bididi Epic 1000 in April.

Bush Rangers WA celebrates 15 years in style

BUSH Ranger cadets and unit leaders, together with DEC staff and official guests, recently celebrated two significant events for the Bush Rangers WA program—the annual Instructor Excellence Awards and the program’s 15th year of operation.

Both were marked by a gathering at the Western Australian Conservation Science Centre on Friday 19 April. Speaking after the event, DEC Bush Rangers Program Coordinator Arlene Moncrieff said unit leaders and instructors were the backbone of the Bush Rangers WA program.

“Each year the Instructor Excellence Awards provide an opportunity to publicly recognise three individuals for their outstanding achievements, and reward the lengths they

go to in providing a range of opportunities for the Bush Ranger cadets under their care,” Arlene said.

“Congratulations to Gary Thirlwell from Duncraig Senior High School, Bronwen Worthington from Geographe Education Support Centre, and Colin Hawke from Mount Lawley Senior High School, the recipients of this year’s awards.”

Arlene said a number of DEC staff had been instrumental in supporting the Bush Rangers program during its 15 years of operation.

“This event provided an ideal opportunity to publicly recognise and thank them for their long-standing commitment, support and mentoring of Bush Ranger cadets,” she said.



Four staff members were recognised at the event for their particularly outstanding contribution during 2012.

“Congratulations to Bruce Ward and Graeme Liddelow, Senior Technical Officers based in Manjimup, Alex Moylett, Senior Fire Training Officer based in Bunbury and Roger Whitelaw, Ranger Shark Bay World Heritage area, on receiving Outstanding Service Awards,” Arlene said.

Cadets from Rossmoyne Senior High School, Emmanuel Catholic College and Mount Lawley Senior High School each paid tribute to these staff members for the contribution they made in providing rewarding and real-life experiences for Bush Ranger cadets.

Since its official inception in 1998, thousands of young people have taken part in the Bush Rangers WA program, amassing more than 3.4 million hours to conservation and community projects.

“The program has much to be proud of,” Arlene said.

“And what better way to round off the evening and celebrate the program’s many achievements during the past 15 years than with a birthday cake? Happy 15th birthday Bush Rangers WA.”



Bush Ranger cadets help cut the birthday cake with DEC Acting Director General Jim Sharp and Minister for Youth Tony Simpson.

News in brief

Volunteers adopt a jetty to protect marine wildlife

WESTERN Australians are being encouraged to volunteer to keep their local waterways free of litter and marine debris as part of Keep Australia Beautiful WA’s Adopt a Jetty initiative.

Keep Australia Beautiful WA Chair Mel Hay said volunteering to adopt a jetty, beach or fishing spot by removing rubbish would help protect seabirds, fish, turtles and marine mammals.

“Adopt a Jetty complements our Clean Marine campaign, which promotes litter-free fishing and boating in partnership with the Swan River Trust, Department of Transport, Department of Fisheries and community groups,” he said.

For more information, see the full [media statement](#).

Pilbara staff trained in fox baiting

THREATENED species in the Pilbara will get better protection from the threat of feral animals following DEC staff training in the safe use and handling of fox baits.

DEC Pilbara Feral Animal Control Project Officer Derek Sandow said staff from DEC’s Exmouth and Karratha work centres completed the training to help protect native animals from the threat of the introduced European red fox.

“By baiting to control this predator in a safe and effective manner, native animals have a much better chance of survival and can continue to play their vital role in maintaining species diversity in the Pilbara,” he said.

For more information, see the full [media statement](#).



Miriuwung-Gajerrong rangers share insights

THREE Miriuwung-Gajerrong (MG) graduate rangers are applying their skills and experience in the East Kimberley to strengthen joint management between the MG people and DEC.

The MG program is part of an initiative to involve Aboriginal people in the management of parks, recognising their knowledge of land management and connection with land.

MG trainee rangers Vincent Kennedy, Andy Reid and Chris Retsas were appointed to the joint management program by their dawangs (family groups) when it began five years ago.

After progressing through their Certificate II and III in Conservation and Land Management as a part of DEC's Mentored Aboriginal Training and Employment Scheme, they have decided to pass on some encouraging words to potential rangers.

Vincent Kennedy said he regularly uses the skills he has learnt with DEC in his home life, and would like to help establish a central community living area on his land at Molly Springs.

"If a young person was asking me about becoming a ranger I would tell them to stay in school, get an education and do the best they can," Vincent said.

In addition to Andy Reid's MG ranger role he has also acted as a regional wildlife officer and assistant operations officer.

He describes being able to fulfill the wishes of DEC and the mob as one of the most satisfying highlights of his career.

"This is an important and recognised job in the community; people interested in it should talk to the families that represent their area and ask them how to go about being a ranger," Andy said.

"There are a lot of things that went wrong for me along the way. Don't be afraid to make mistakes, don't give up and never stop believing in yourself."

Chris Retsas' experience has qualified him for snake call-outs and crocodile relocation, in addition to being trained as an authorised officer under the *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984*.

"On behalf of the MG ranger team I would like to thank MG, DEC and the greater community for their continued support," Chris said.



Vincent Kennedy supervising trainee rangers Keith Boombi and Cameron Rogers at Mirima National Park.

News in brief

Next phase in air quality study begins

THE fourth phase of the ongoing Kwinana Background Air Quality Study has started following the completion of testing of a new purpose-built detector.

DEC Air Quality Branch Manager Peter Taylor said phase four of the study would investigate short-term variations of ammonia and a suite of 10 volatile organic compounds (VOCs) using Open Path Fourier Transform Infra-Red (OP-FTIR) monitoring technology.

"Monitoring will be conducted over 12 months at 11 sites that have been selected based on input from the community, the Kwinana Airshed Study Advisory Group, and practical considerations," he said.

For more information see the full [media statement](#) or contact Constance Dewan on 9333 7427 or constance.dewan@dec.wa.gov.au.

Funding for waste reduction projects

COMMUNITY groups are encouraged to apply for state government funding grants of up to \$20,000 for waste reduction initiatives.

Environment Minister Albert Jacob said the grants were provided under the Waste Authority's Community Grants Scheme as part of the state government's Waste Strategy released in 2012.

"This grants scheme is an excellent way to support and provide funding for community-based projects that involve practical waste reduction measures at a local level," he said.

For more information, see the full [media statement](#), or, for application forms and guidelines, see the [Waste Authority](#) website.

