

Community Involvement Unit Newsletter



Department of
Environment and Conservation

Our environment, our future 

February 2012

Welcome to the CIU Newsletter 2012!

Welcome everyone to YOUR newsletter which provides news, information, and notices regarding volunteer activity in DEC. We cover many volunteer programs but there will usually be an item of importance related to your volunteering activity. News from other programs will be of special interest if thinking of trying something different but still related to environment and/or conservation.

While I remember – a **HUGE THANK YOU** - to you one and all (and supporting families !!) for the thousands of

hours provided in many spectacular or behind the scenes programs. DEC can bake a cake to provide recreation, conservation and environmental outcomes – but YOU help to put icing on that cake!! Thank You.

To assist in getting advice and support quickly within the CIU we have allocated specific programs to specialist staff. We can all respond if necessary but the list below will help you find the best advice quickly.

lorene.bennett@dec.wa.gov.au - Wildlife rehabilitators and centres, Bibbulmun Track and Munda Biddi Trail Foundations, Friends of Cape Track, etc.

sonia.chalmers@dec.wa.gov.au - Campground Hosts, Wildcare Helpline.

lee.hollingsworth@dec.wa.gov.au - Healthy Parks Healthy People, Animal Control Agents, Reptile Removers, Herbarium and Science Division Projects.

hugh.madean@dec.wa.gov.au - Honorary Calm Officers, 4WD Associations/Clubs.

In addition Lorene has a broad responsibility for Training, Sonia for all

of our Administration, and Lee for Partnerships with other key agencies and groups.

All of our team are passionate about the work you do and will try and help wherever possible. Brooke supports us all (as well as studying full time!!) especially currently in the areas of Administration, and Volgistics volunteer and project registration.

We intend publishing on 1st February, May, August, November. If you have items to contribute send them to:

community.involvement@dec.wa.gov.au

preferably at least 2 weeks prior to the publication dates.

**Newsletter
publishing dates
are February 1,
May 1, August 1,
November 1**



The Community Involvement Team,
from left to right Lorene, Brooke, Hugh,
Sonia and Lee

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Volunteer of the Year Awards 2011

December 2, 2011 saw the annual DEC Volunteer of the Year awards ceremony held at the WA Conservation Science Centre, Kensington.



Volunteer of the Year, Cedric Bakewell, with Regional Parks Community Liaison officer Michelle Charles

Nominations were invited from DEC volunteer group peers and coordinators across WA.

With over 3,602 volunteers active in the past year, 57 were nominated either individually or as part of a

group.

After much deliberation, the judging panel decided that three individuals and one group deserved Volunteer of the Year awards, with five individuals and five groups awarded Outstanding Service awards.

Winners came from a wide range of programs including wildlife rehabilitation, the WA Her-

barium, campground hosting, Munda Biddi Trail and Bibbulmun Track maintenance teams and various community groups.

140 volunteers and staff attended the event, with Jim Sharp, Deputy Director General of Parks and Conservation, hosting and Peter Sharp, Director Parks and Visitor Services, presenting the awards to the winning volunteers.

Jim and Peter praised the efforts of the volunteers and admired their efforts in vital roles across many programs run by DEC.

“The level of commitment is impressive, and in some cases it has continued for over 20 years. Each person involved in volunteering at DEC is providing an outstanding service to nature conservation in WA – many projects would simply not be possible without volunteers”, Jim said.

After the ceremony, the Community Involvement Unit hosted a morning tea for all winners, nominees and their supporters.

More photos from the event can be seen on our Flickr page:

<http://www.flickr.com/groups/decparcs/>

A full list of winners can be found on the DEC website -

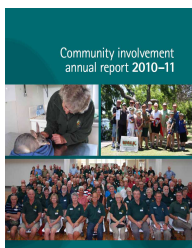
<http://www.dec.wa.gov.au/>



Volunteers of the Year, the WA Herbarium Specimen Mounting team

Each person involved in volunteering at DEC is providing an outstanding service to nature conservation in WA – many projects would simply not be possible without volunteers—Jim Sharp

Community involvement annual report 2010-11



The Community Involvement annual report 2010-11 was launched at the Volunteer of the Year event in December. The report provides information on volunteer work across DEC and partnership programs over the last financial year.

Copies of the report are available from CIU by emailing:

community.involvement@dec.wa.gov.au

or by calling Lee on 9334 0582

You can also download a copy from the DEC Website via:

www.dec.wa.gov.au/content/category/16/183/341/

Wildlife Rehabilitation

In support of DEC's Nature Protection Branch and wildlife conservation generally, this is one of DEC's biggest volunteer groups with specialists such as our registered rehabilitators, reptile removers, Animal Control Agents (ACAs), specialist rescuers and representatives of wildlife centres, associations, and other interest groups.

A major piece of work currently being undertaken is the review of the "*Minimum Standards for Wildlife Rehabilitation*" by DEC and members of the Wildlife Rehabilitators Consultation Group. This group is made up of various representatives from wildlife rehabilitation groups, Perth Zoo vets and DEC Nature Protection officers.



Volunteers at the Advanced necropsy in birds course in 2011 (photo: DEC)

The review aims to improve the existing *Minimum Standards* document to further decrease any stress on injured fauna by increasing the quality of care while rehabilitating and increase the chances of their successful release back in to the wild.

Training dates 2012

The 2012 training dates for the Basic course in wildlife rehabilitation are as follows:

Metro weekend courses:

March 24, 25

May 18, 19

July 28, 29

September 8, 9

With a midweek course on **Monday May 28** and **Tuesday May 29**

Regional courses:

June 16, 17 at Kalgoorlie

August 18, 19 at Katanning

Advanced topics:

Sat **May 5**—Why DNA is a useful tool in protecting and understanding wildlife, with Dr Mike Bunce from Murdoch University

Sat **June 30**—Wound management (with focus on burn management), with Perth Zoo veterinarian

Sat **September 22**—Managing oiled/sticky wildlife, with Perth Zoo veterinarian.

Registration forms for all courses are available on the DEC website:

www.dec.wa.gov.au/content/view/285/2299/

For more information on any of the courses or to book your place, please call Lorene on 9334 0251 or email: community.involvement@dec.wa.gov.au



A Refuge in the South West

"Maroo Wildlife Refuge Inc" plans to open officially in 2012. Situated 40km east of Manjimup, the 160 acre Jarrah, Marri and Banksia covered property is being prepared for wildlife rehabilitation and release.

Maroo will be run by Jo and Glen Burston - Jo being a registered wildlife veterinary nurse, previously at Perth Zoo vet department, a teacher for DEC Wildlife Rehabilitators' courses and a wildlife carer for over 20 years (10+ as a DEC registered carer). Glen has been Jo's support, wildlife chauffeur and also

a DEC registered rehabilitator for a number of years.

They purchased Maroo in 2005 and their plans have been slowly clicking into place - the Refuge education room has been completed with a grant from Lotterywest (to whom they are most grateful) so wildlife training can be given on the property.

Currently they have courses once a month on various aspects of wildlife handling, caring, rehabilitation, wound management and more.

A Black Cockatoo enclosure has been completed and they

are awaiting a Reg16 licence so they can use Black Cockatoos for educational purposes. Further enclosures for wildlife are planned and will be completed once funding and grants can be sourced.

This is a very exciting time for Maroo, and with support from DEC, volunteers and people of the South West it can blossom further, so watch this space. For more information contact Glen or Jo at:

dollar.downs@bigpond.com



Left: The new Black Cockatoo enclosure

Right: Glen and baby red tail Black Cockatoo



Forrestdale Lake cygnet rescue

An early start on January 4 2012 saw DEC staff and over 20 volunteers rallying together to rescue black swan cygnets from Forrestdale Lake Nature Reserve, Armadale.

DEC Wildlife Officers had earlier attended the lake in response to public concern that a large number of cygnets were dying as a result of fox predation from the increasingly low water levels of the lake and the exposure to the hot and dry environment.

Once the decision was made, a call was put

out for help and with little over 12 hours notice a group of willing volunteers was assembled, ready to assist in capturing the remaining cygnets.

The plan was to create an ever-decreasing human barrier circle to drive them into an area making it easier for the birds to be netted with minimal stress.

ured cygnets were monitored before being released into appropriate wetlands.

The Nature Protection Branch and CIU would like to express their sincere appreciation and thanks for the efforts of the volunteers that attended the rescue at such short notice.



Volunteers on the mud at Forrestdale Lake

Despite the soggy mud, all went well and seven birds were caught.

Perth zoo vets were on hand to check the condition of the birds before they were handed to rehabilitators to care for further care. The cap-



The dry Forrestdale Lake

Campground Host workshop November 2011

November 3 & 4 2011 saw 135 volunteers come together at DEC's Kensington headquarters for the CIU's annual campground host workshop.

Thirteen DEC rangers and staff attended the workshop and gave presentations to try to entice campground hosts to stay in their national park or region. Hosts then made arrangements with the rangers and staff to organise a stay at the various sites available.

Campground hosts also had a presentation from survival guru Bob Cooper, and given tips on communicating with customers by Jan Collins, a regular presenter at DEC's volunteer workshops.

The campground host program has now been running for 20 years, and in that time hundreds of people have taken part, volunteer-

ing their time in more than 50 sites around the state.

"The program benefits many people. Park visitors benefit from the hospitality shown by hosts, while the hosts themselves get a great deal of satisfaction from their role helping others and from spending time in the natural environment. In addition, DEC staff are grateful to have hosts looking after park visitors, as well as helping to look after the park itself," Hugh said.

In addition to the November two-day workshop, inductions for new campground hosts are carried out in March each year.

Campground Host workshop and training dates for 2012 are:

March 14 (Wednesday) - Note: this is an introductory course aimed at new Campground Hosts

November 1 & 2 (Thurs/Friday)

If you would like to book a place please visit www.dec.wa.gov.au and click on Community and education > Volunteer programs > Campground hosting - you'll be able to find a full training calendar and booking forms.



Happy Campers at the 2011 Campground host workshop in Kensington

See overleaf for current campground hosting vacancies

**DEC staff are grateful to have hosts looking after park visitors, as well as helping to look after the park itself—
Hugh Maclean, CIU coordinator**



The DEC rangers and staff that came from all round the state (front row: Berdina Ballast, Christie Mahoney, Margaret Mann, Peter Vickridge, Nick Evans, John Abbott; second row: Peter Simmonds, Greg Mann, Phil Arthur, Dave Thornburg, Ben Byrne; back row: Rob Thorne and Steve Toole)

Campground Host Vacancies 2012

There are currently a number of vacancies for volunteer campground hosts in the following areas across WA:

In the West Kimberley there are vacancies at these campgrounds :

Geikie Gorge NP, in

- May
- June
- August
- September

Windjana Gorge National Park, in

- May
- June
- July
- August

Mt Hart, in

- May
- June
- July
- August

Silent Grove Campground, King Leopold Range Conservation Park, in

- May
- June
- July
- August

For further information on West Kimberley hosting vacancies please contact District manager Dave Woods on (08) 9195 5500 or email: David.Woods@dec.wa.gov.au

The campground host program operates throughout Western Australia at approximately 53 sites

Further south, there are also vacancies at **Martins Tank Campground** in **Yalgorup National Park**, about 50km south of Mandurah -

Hosts are required here for February / March / May through to December 2012.

Please contact Ranger Ben Byrne on 9405 0738 or mobile 0419 973 414 or email:

Ben.byrne@dec.wa.gov.au

for details on hosting at this campground.

At **Lucky Bay campsite within Cape Le Grand National Park**, in Esperance District, hosts are required for the months of March and April 2012.

For these vacancies please contact the Senior Ranger, Cameron Hennessy on:

phone 9075 9072,

mobile 0427 766 067,

or by email:

Cameron.Hennessy@dec.wa.gov.au

At **Stirling Range National Park** there are vacancies through March and April - contact Sarah or John, on 9827 9230

If you are willing and able to host at any of the above sites it would be greatly appreciated, by DEC and the Rangers, and you'll be carrying out a vital service to visitors to WA's national parks.



Information on all of DEC's hosted campgrounds can be found via the website -

<http://www.dec.wa.gov.au/content/view/2881/1452/>

If you are interested in becoming a campground host, visit www.dec.wa.gov.au and click on Community and education > Volunteer programs > Campground hosting to fill out an expression of interest form, or call 9334 0279

Volunteering at the WA Herbarium

The Western Australian Herbarium is the principal botanical research facility in Western Australia dealing with the taxonomy, distribution and status of all native and introduced plants in the State.

Its core is the State Collection of more than 730,000 dried specimens of plants, algae, mosses, lichens and fungi. Staff at the Herbarium maintain, curate and study the collection with an aim to document and describe the State's botanical biodiversity.

The Herbarium runs a satisfying,

interesting and popular volunteer program.

The program has been running for 30 years, with many volunteers working with us for many years, an indication of the stimulating and supportive environment we provide.

Volunteers are involved in many aspects of Herbarium work ranging from mounting, incorporating and identifying specimens, processing images for FloraBase, creating electronic keys and maintaining the Reference Herbarium.

The Herbarium volunteer program has been closed for a couple of years whilst staff and the collection were relocated to modern new premises.

The Herbarium has now moved and has reopened its doors to the public, to researchers, to its existing valued volunteers, and to new recruits to the volunteer program.

Current Herbarium opportunities :

Specimen processing	Mounting specimens by sewing and taping dried pressed flora and accompanying labels onto archival board. A great way to begin to recognise the flora. No prior botanical experience required, however patience and a fondness for sewing is desirable.
Plant Identification	Identifying specimens from around the state, especially from the Regional Herbaria network. Some experience with plant identification or a good working knowledge of the flora is desirable.
Image Capture and Storage	Processing electronic images for FloraBase, the Herbarium's website. This task may also involve scanning photos and slides. Familiarity with using computers and the Photoshop program is essential.
Creating electronic keys	Helping create interactive keys and other identification tools. Some experience with plant identification, using keys and a working knowledge of the flora is desirable. Some familiarity with computers is essential.
General Curation tasks	Helping curation staff with tasks such as locating specimens in the vaults, sorting backlogs, attaching slips. Some experience with Latin names useful, but not essential.
Reference Herbarium	Helping Curation staff manage and maintain the public access Reference Herbarium. No prior botanical experience required



Volunteer Patricia Wenham mounting specimens

The volunteer program opens Monday 5th March 2012.

Register your interest by contacting:

Karina Knight, Collections Manager

Phone: 9219 9130

Or Email: Karina.Knight@dec.wa.gov.au

Note that places will be limited in some volunteering projects.

Kanyana Wildlife 2012

Kanyana Wildlife is going through an exciting development phase with many new activities planned for 2012. The following calendar will give you some idea of activities you might like to participate in:

February -

1st - Information Night 6.30 – 8.30 for new volunteers. Must register first

3rd, 11th - Nocturnal tours

March -

2nd, 10th - Nocturnal tours



April -

4th - Information Night 6.30 – 8.30 for new volunteers. Must register first

6th, 14th - Nocturnal tours

Kanyana is always looking for new volunteers to work within one or more of the following areas:



Hospital - hands on with the animals

Education - some hands on, school visits, onsite visits, new education centre

Administration – accounts, phones, bookings and more

Maintenance – assisting with the ongoing requirements of a heritage listed building and surrounding areas

Gardens – an opportunity to develop and maintain a large and attractive native garden as part of a team.

Each team offers plenty of learning, social interaction and work to assist new volunteers to make a safer and better environment for the sustainability of native animals. Please contact Marisa for further information or to book into an info session on 9291 3900 or email

Wildcare Helpline

The Wildcare Helpline, DEC's telephone referral service, is always looking for volunteers to help with taking calls for the busy and vital work necessary to help sick, injured and orphaned native wildlife. All you need is a spare few hours a week, and you'll be a great help in caring for our native wildlife.

Please get in touch if you can help – email:

community.involvement@dec.wa.gov.au

(please put Wildcare Helpline in the subject line) or call 9334 0279

The helpline has recently been receiving calls regarding magpies with lumps and lesions on their face and legs—this is likely to be magpie pox. While similar to other types of poxvirus, magpie pox is specific to magpies.

It is passed via biting insects, such as mosquitoes, and lesions occur on featherless areas where they are bitten, and most commonly in fledgling birds.

In 2010-11 the Wildcare Helpline received almost 8,000 calls

It is advisable to leave young wild birds with their parents as this provides them with an adequate balanced diet while avoiding the risks associated with captivity.

If you have an infected bird in captivity they should be housed alone or with other infected birds, but avoid overcrowding. They must be separated from birds that are not infected. Lesions can naturally resolve themselves after 2 to 3 weeks.

It is possible to treat the lesions on affected birds, however it is always advisable to seek the advice of a vet before giving any treatment.



Magpie foot with pox lesions

For more information call the Wildcare Helpline on 9474 9055

Magpie pox information by Anne Fowler BSc (Vet)(Hons) BVSc, MACVSc (Avian Health, Wildlife Health)

WILDCARE helpline

FOR SICK, INJURED OR ORPHANED NATIVE WILDLIFE



Department of Environment and Conservation



(08) 9474 9055

Munda Biddi opportunity

Due to an additional 85km of trail now open and ready to ride, new sections of the Munda Biddi Trail ranging from eight to 20km from Nannup to Manjimup are available for adoption by volunteers who have attended a free one-day trail maintenance workshop hosted by the Munda Biddi Trail Foundation and DEC.



The Foundation's Volunteer Coordinator, Sarah Holland said, "The Trail maintenance volunteers play a vital role ensuring that the Trail is in peak condition for all to enjoy, they are the eyes and ears on the ground."

Nearly all of the 43 volunteer sections north of Nannup are regularly maintained by volunteers and there's a wide array of enthusiastic people ranging from avid cyclists to families looking for another way to spend time outdoors together."

Trail maintenance volunteers visit their sections of trail about three or four times a year depending on the area and whether their sections include one of the Trail's eight purpose-built campsites.

Using skills and tools provided in the workshop, volunteers assist DEC with issues such as signage, overgrowth, rubbish, erosion and obstacles on the Trail.



Volunteers conducting trail maintenance while on a ride on a new section of the Trail

Any issues that the volunteers cannot deal with themselves are recorded and reported back to DEC using an online database.

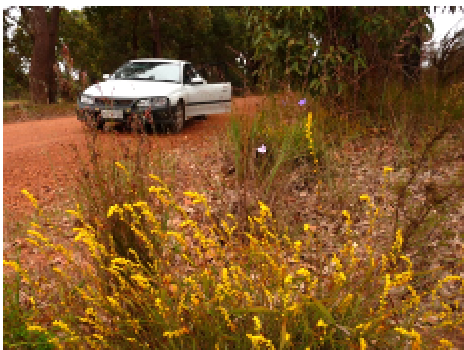
If you are interested in becoming a Trail maintenance volunteer or other volunteer opportunities on the Trail contact Sarah on 9481 2483 or admin@mundabiddi.org.au.

More information on volunteering can also be found on the volunteer page on www.mundabiddi.org.au

Roadside Conservation Committee

The Roadside Conservation Committee (RCC) was formed in 1985 due to community concern about the conservation of WA's roadside vegetation.

The aim of the RCC is to "co-ordinate and promote the conservation and effective management of rail and roadside vegetation for the benefit of the environment and the people of Western Australia."



Surveying roadsides in the Shire of Capel

Each year the RCC works with shires and local community members to survey the roadside vegetation noting weeds and other threats and habitat features such as hollow logs.

The surveys are car-based using a hand-held PDA/smart phone. Volunteers work in pairs, one as driver and one using the PDA.

When: The surveys are generally undertaken in late winter and spring and training is provided.

Where: In various locations around the state from the northern agricultural region to the south west, wheatbelt and southern regions.



Volunteer training in the Shire of Woodanilling - checking maps to work out where to survey

If you are interested in getting out and exploring more of WA and conserving our roadside vegetation, contact Kylie Payne on 9219 8762 or kylie.payne@dec.wa.gov.au for further information and to fill out an expression of interest form.

A vibrant network of volunteers happy to care for our natural environment



Department of
Environment and Conservation

Our environment, our future 

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT UNIT

Phone: 08 9334 0279
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community.involvement@dec.wa.gov.au

Locked Bag 104
Bentley Delivery Centre
WA 6983



The CIU provides community members in WA with opportunities to support, be involved in, and contribute to, the work of DEC.

The CIU supports DEC volunteers as an integral component of the Western Australian community. Volunteering enriches the community through the delivery of environmental, social, economic and health benefits to individuals, local groups and communities, the state and the nation.

If you have an event or story you would like to feature in future editions of the newsletter, or have any comments or suggestions please contact the Community Involvement Unit via:

Community.involvement@dec.wa.gov.au
or call 9334 0582

For information on DEC volunteer programs, visit the website at www.dec.wa.gov.au/content/category/16/183/341/

Volgistics: An Introduction



To make recruiting and registering easier for both DEC and volunteers, DEC will be introducing an online volunteer management system, *Volgistics*.

Previously volunteer records have been kept on a labour-intensive database, but *Volgistics* is a far more user-friendly web-based system allowing access to volunteers' own information via a link on the DEC website.

Volgistics will enable the CIU to communicate more efficiently with volunteers, while allowing volunteers full access to their own details and the ability to enter their hours electronically, find any current projects requiring volunteers and to keep up with any DEC news.

Volgistics is accessible from anywhere with an internet connection. It is completely secure, utilising the same security and privacy protections used by online banks, enabling volunteers to access their details using a unique password.

From 1 July 2011, all new volunteer registrations have been registered on *Volgistics*, and all active volunteers are currently being transferred into the program.

This may take some time but once all active records have been entered, the current database will provide only historical data.

We're confident the transition will be a smooth one and that it will improve the overall service and communication between DEC and volunteers.

For more information visit:
www.volgistics.com

Healthy Parks
Healthy People

