


# Community Involvement Unit newsletter



Department of  
Environment and Conservation

Our environment, our future 

Community Involvement Unit

February 2013

## 2013 edition

Firstly – Happy New Year and a big welcome to our new volunteers that have joined the DEC community since the last issue.

Those of you that have been with us a while may have begun to notice a few changes in the last few months.

We are increasingly aware of the need to improve our environmental awareness by using less and reducing waste, not to mention costs.

With this in mind the Community Involvement Unit are embracing technology and have made some exciting changes for 2013.

The introduction of an eLearning program is allowing us to offer a different approach to some of our training.

New Campground Hosts can now log onto the internet from wherever they may be and access Campground Host training modules.

Also, parts of the two-day basic course in wildlife rehabilitation can

now be accessed this way, meaning course participants won't need to sit on uncomfortable chairs for quite as long as they used to!

We think the eLearning is fun, colourful and very easy to follow, while still delivering high quality sections of training. Feedback so far has been very positive.

We are also moving towards becoming a paperless unit, this includes communications as well as information.

Handbooks for Campground Hosts and the basic rehabilitation course are now produced on USB thumb drives - much lighter than a 250 page manual to carry around as well as better for the environment, while still offering the same high level of content.

Please don't forget to get your timesheets into us as soon as possible after the end of the next quarter on March 31.

Those of you that returned timesheets for the second quarter and have accumulated enough hours should have received your rewards recently.

Stay cool, stay safe, look after yourselves and each other - we look forward to working with you in 2013.

From all at the

**Community Involvement Unit**

**Hugh, Lorene, Lee, Sonia, Brooke and Josey**



Healthy Parks  
Healthy People

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### Also:

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## DEC Volunteer of the Year Awards

The 30th November 2012 saw DEC host the annual Volunteer of the Year and Outstanding Service awards at the WA Conservation Science Centre at Kensington.

The annual event celebrates the work of people who volunteer on environmental projects and programs with DEC.

Around 80 volunteers and DEC staff attended the awards, which were introduced by DEC Director General Keiran McNamara and Deputy Director General Parks and Conservation Jim Sharp, and presented by Hon Bill Marmion Minister for Environment; Water.

In his speech, Mr Marmion paid tribute to the important contribution volunteers make to protecting Western Australia's environment.

Mr Marmion said the tasks undertaken by DEC volunteers were varied and often demanding, but ultimately rewarding.

"The spirit of volunteers who assist DEC is exemplified by their efforts to take ownership of the wider community's responsibility to protect the environment," he said.

"Highlights for volunteers this year were the releases of western swamp tortoises and black cockatoos into the wild, maintenance of the Munda Biddi Trail and Bibbulmun Track and large scale litter clean-up operations.

"Each DEC volunteer is providing an honourable service to promote and implement nature conservation and biodiversity programs throughout WA."

The Volunteer of the Year award winners were **Emily Fitzsimmons** of Esperance for her tireless work volunteering in Stokes National Park, and **Peter Ashton** of Dalyellup for his enthusiastic volunteer work in the Tidy Towns-Sustainable Communities program.

**June Butcher**, of Kanyana Wildlife for her continued dedication and commitment to wildlife rehabilitation;

**Roy and Joy Jackson** for their long-standing and ongoing contribution to Yanchep National Park;

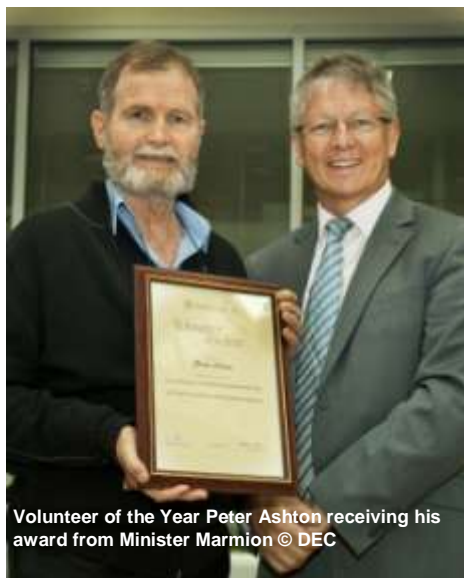
**Leonie Stubbs** for her work with the Friends of Paganoni Swamp;

**Drummond and Jean Hardie** for their work at Millstream Chichester National Park;

**Chris Plunkett, Trish Bird, Val Cocker and Bev Visser** for their dedication and commitment to the Bibbulmun Track;

**Gilbert Marsh** for his continued commitment to the WA Herbarium; and

The **'Byford Bag Ladies'** – **Colleen Rankin, Ruth Conway, Maggie Bergant, Max Erskine, Stephen Jones, Lisa Keys and Fran Paterson** for their motivation and dedication to the environment.



Volunteer of the Year Peter Ashton receiving his award from Minister Marmion © DEC



Volunteer of the Year Emily Fitzsimmons receiving her award from Minister Marmion © DEC



Some of the Byford Bag Ladies with Minister Marmion © DEC

17 **Outstanding Service** awards were also presented to a range of volunteers for their valuable work throughout Western Australia.

These went to:

**Susie Bedford** of Exmouth for her conservation work for various programs in Exmouth;



Roy and Joy Jackson with the Yanchep NP Team © DEC

More photos from the event can be seen on the DEC Parks WA Flickr page:

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

## Bibbulmun Track Foundation Long Service Awards



The Bibbulmun Track Foundation recently honoured 150 volunteers with Long Service Awards.

Since its formation 15 years ago, the Foundation has enjoyed excellent volunteer support, always having around 300 active volunteers.

Their roles range from maintaining the Bibbulmun Track and guiding events to administration duties and answering walker enquiries.

The commitment and enthusiasm of these volunteers, including the Board of Directors, is instrumental to the operation of the Foundation and the maintenance of the 1000 kilometre Track.

Each year Foundation volunteers have received awards based on the number of hours contributed in a financial year.

If you are interested in volunteering on the Bibbulmun Track please visit [www.bibbulmuntrack.org.au](http://www.bibbulmuntrack.org.au) or email: [friends@bibbulmuntrack.org.au](mailto:friends@bibbulmuntrack.org.au)

Photo - L-r : 15 Years service awardees Mike Wood, Chris and Gwen Plunkett, Carol Jowett, Jean Byrne, Jan and Colin Read

These rewards, for over 100, 300 and 500 hours, are generously provided by Foundation sponsor Mountain Designs.

As many volunteers are unable to give more than a few hours each year but have supported the Foundation for many years, it was decided to institute Long Service Awards to acknowledge their commitment and loyalty.

Over 100 volunteers were recognised this year, including 14 who have been with the Foundation for 15 years.

5 year award recipients received a certificate, 5 year volunteer cloth badge and a specially printed water bottle.

10 year recipients received a certificate, 10 year badge, water bottle and a bottle of wine.

15 year volunteers were presented with a certificate, 15 year badge, water bottle, bottle of wine and a pot of thyme in a handmade jarrah planter box.

Awards were presented at a number of 'Thank you' functions in Perth and in regional areas as many volunteers live throughout the south west.



## Campground Host vacancies

**Please note: these vacancies are only available to those volunteers currently registered as DEC Campground hosts and have completed the necessary training and information workshops.**

For more information on becoming a Campground Host, please visit [www.dec.wa.gov.au](http://www.dec.wa.gov.au) or call 9334 0279

Donnelly District is seeking hosts for **Drafty's Campsite** in the **Warren National Park**, from the end of February until end of April. A minimum of one month, but possibly two months.

This is a non-caravan campground, so potential hosts need to have camper trailer or tent set-up.

Please contact **Ranger Tracey Robins** on **0407 857 146** if you are interested.

**Coalseam NP** have a one month vacancy from mid September to mid October.

Contact Julia Sercombe at [Julia.sercombe@dec.wa.gov.au](mailto:Julia.sercombe@dec.wa.gov.au) or ph: 9921 5955, Mob: 0427 982 758

There are a few vacancies in the Gascoyne area. April & May at the **Kennedy Range NP** and April & June at **Mount Augustus NP**.

For these, please contact **Steve Toole** in the Carnavon office on **9941 3754, mob: 0427 778 741** or email [Stephen.toole@dec.wa.gov.au](mailto:Stephen.toole@dec.wa.gov.au)

**Waychinicup NP** in the south requires hosts from **February 1st** to

**May 31st** - contact **senior ranger Mark True** if you can help out on **9846 4276, mob: 0428 464 276** or email: [mark.true@dec.wa.gov.au](mailto:mark.true@dec.wa.gov.au)

At **Cape Arid NP, Esperance**, there are vacancies for June to the end of August - contact **senior ranger Jo Shalders** on **9075 0055, mob: 0427 436 831** or email: [johlen.shalders@dec.wa.gov.au](mailto:johlen.shalders@dec.wa.gov.au)

For more information on DEC Campgrounds please visit [www.dec.wa.gov.au/campgrounds/](http://www.dec.wa.gov.au/campgrounds/)





## Kanyana Wildlife Discovery Centre launch

Kanyana's Wildlife Discovery Centre was launched to great acclaim by the Hon Bill Marmion (Minister for Environment; Water) on Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2012

The official opening was attended by a number of VIPs including Perth Hills resident, the Hon John Day MLA.

The occasion was marked by Minister Marmion walking across the threshold of the Discovery Centre with Henry, Kanyana's red-tailed black cockatoo, on his shoulder.

There was some uncertainty as to whether Minister Marmion would agree to this act due to the possibility of Henry leaving a little present on his shoulder.

Minister Marmion thankfully rose to the challenge and we are pleased to report that Minister Marmion emerged unscathed, from the proceedings!

Approximately 100 guests joined in the celebration of the long awaited Discovery Centre opening and were the first to view this unique facility during a 30 minute guided tour.

Guests had the highest of praise for Consultants, BKay Design, who built the Centre with support

from many Kanyana volunteers.

All who attended were impressed by the array of interactive displays, fascinating facts, beautiful photography and unique video footage.

The Discovery Centre is the realisation of a long held goal by founder, June Butcher, which was finally made possible thanks to the generosity of Chevron Australia, the major sponsor, and Fortescue Metals Group (FMG) who funded the upgrade of the Reptile Room.

Russell Lagdon, Chevron's Environment Manager, attended the opening and paid tribute to Kanyana's work in caring for native fauna and raising awareness of the value of WA's wildlife.

He was delighted to endorse Chevron's partnership with Kanyana on this new and exciting project and wished Kanyana every success with the new Centre.

The success of the launch was the result of the collaboration of many volunteers and supporters who helped to make this happen.



Photo : Launch of Kanyana Wildlife Discovery Centre

From left to right: *Hon John Day Minister for Planning, Culture and the Arts, Science and Innovation, June Butcher Chairman Kanyana, Henry red-tailed black cockatoo, Hon Bill Marmion Minister for Environment; Water, Russell Lagdon Chevron Environment Manager.*

Backdrop photographs: Houndstooth Studio, Nic Bishop Photography

Special thanks must go to the Kanyana volunteers, Kim Kay and his team from BKay Design, film maker Leighton De Barros and Houndstooth Studio for the stunning animal images on display.

For more information on the Kanyana Wildlife Centre please visit:

[www.kanyanawildlife.org.au](http://www.kanyanawildlife.org.au)

## Bush Rangers Tree Planting by Emmanuel Catholic College Years 8 & 9

The Emmanuel Catholic College Bush Rangers have been planting seedlings within the Beeliar Regional Park for several years with thousands so far planted.

However, in 2010 they began planting seedlings at a particular site, directly adjacent to the school's football oval.

This region of Beeliar Regional Park was put forward as one of the original sites for the Fiona Stanley Hospital and was cleared accordingly.

However the hospital was relocated to its current location which was most fortunate, as building a large public hospital would no doubt have caused considerable environmental impact to this region.

Consequently, as part of the Healthy Parks, Healthy People initiative and in collaboration with local DEC and local government agencies, the Emmanuel Bush Rangers have been actively revegetating the site that was previously left considerably barren and devastated.

They began planting several endemic species in

Healthy Parks  
Healthy People



the area in 2010.

Many of the *Banksia* and *Casaurina* spp have unfortunately not survived, but most of the *Eucalyptus* seedlings planted have thrived.

It is incredible to see the huge growth of trees from year to year.

Also, what is even more exciting is the wildlife that is starting to reclaim the area, with many bird species increasing, as well as frogs.

This in itself is reassuring as frogs are great indicators of the health of an ecosystem.

When sampling the water from the Kogolup Lake, it is surprisingly quite clean and pH neutral, and the salt content is reducing, which is fantastic!



Left:  
Emmanuel Catholic College Bush Rangers planting Group

The Bush Rangers at Emmanuel have also been constructing bird boxes this year which they hope to place on the larger trees on the edge of the football oval that borders the site, as well as more within the Beeliar Regional Park.

Hopefully these will attract more native bird species back to the area, particularly Carnaby's Cockatoos, which have become quite scarce with the local urbanisation.

Some comments from Bush Rangers on the project -

**"Wow so many frogs this year, we didn't see any last year!!" Jace Year 8**

**It is so much fun, we get so dirty and muddy!" Kira Year 8**

**"When I stand next to the trees I planted last year, then I know we are making a difference." Sean Year 9**

Bush Rangers will continue planting in this area until the whole area is rehabilitated back to its former glory.

## Praise for Mandurah Herbarium Volunteer

The **PEEL 2012 Volunteer Environmental Awards** were held recently in Mandurah.

This coveted award is an annual celebration facilitated by the **City of Mandurah EcoServices** and is considered an important recognition honouring particularly outstanding contributions by exceptional volunteers in the region who commit their

time and efforts for the preservation of the natural environment.

Congratulations went to the very deserving recipient, DEC volunteer **Peg Foreman** of the **Mandurah Herbarium**, who was presented with a framed award, Perpetual Trophy and a beautiful book 'Florescence'.

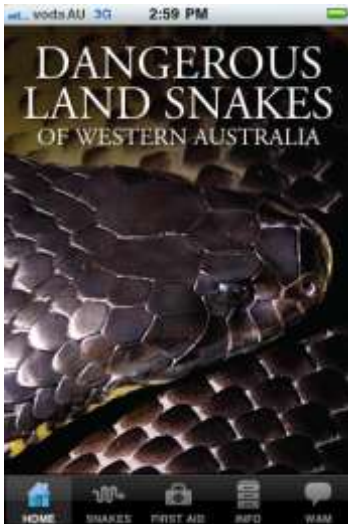
The City recognised **Peg** for her contribution to the City and community. Volunteering for the past 12 years, her untiring passion for the environment and wealth of knowledge has inspired community groups and local residents to preserve Peel's unique Bushland. Peg was also previously awarded an Outstanding Service award by DEC in 2009 for her enthusiasm and commitment to the Herbarium.

Peg will be leaving the Mandurah Herbarium in February and moving with her husband to Queensland and will reside in Townsville. She will be missed by colleagues but her legacy will remain at the **Mandurah Branch** for years to come.



Above: Peg with her award

## Smartphone Apps



The Western Australian Museum has two useful Apps available for iPhone, iPods and iPads.

The first is 'Dangerous Land Snakes of Western Australia' (pictured).

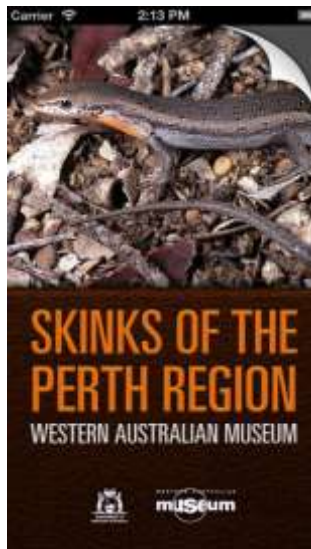
It's always good to know about snakes that inhabit your area, and how to recognise them.

There are 54 species of venomous land snakes known to inhabit WA.

Of these, the majority are venomous but considered too small to be harmful to humans.

However, there are still 14 snakes that are considered to be dangerously venomous and capable of inflicting a bite that require antivenom treatment.

This App helps you to identify these snakes and also contains First Aid information.



Have you ever wondered what skinks can be found in your garden or local area?

Have you spotted a skink or small lizard and want to identify it?

**Skinks of the Perth Region** gives you all the details about our scaled friends, including images, maps, habitat, descriptions and general observations for 29 species of skinks that can be

located around the Perth region.

Everything you wanted to know about the family **Scincidae** in the Perth area is now available in one convenient app.

Whether it's a curious mind, or the desire for a quick identification, this app is a must for any lizard lover visiting or living near Perth.

Both Apps are available in the iTunes store for \$1.99 each.

If you use any other Apps which may be of use or interest to other volunteers, let us know and we'll feature them!





Munda Biddi Trail Foundation Inc  
 PO Box 7445 Cloisters Square 6850  
 Email: admin@mundabiddi.org.au  
 Tel: (08) 9481 2483  
[www.mundabiddi.org.au](http://www.mundabiddi.org.au)

## Transport Coordinator Volunteers needed for Munda Biddi Epic 1000

### Role Overview:

There are two positions at any one time. The two positions would be ideal if two friends wanted to join together however individuals are also welcome to volunteer (they will be paired with another volunteer).

- Volunteers will be required to bring their own tent and sleeping gear and will need to stay in camps with riders when not in towns. They can also stay with the group in caravan parks when in towns at no cost. (Otherwise you can opt to stay in other accommodation at your own expense when in towns).
- Two Transport Coordinators are needed throughout the ride. If there are two people who are willing to join the event for the entire ride (i.e. three weeks) then that is suitable however, it is envisaged more likely that three different groups of two people would rotate weekly.

### Ride Description:

The Munda Biddi Epic 1000 is the first ever end-to-end ride on the completed 1000km long Munda Biddi Trail from Albany to Perth between 7<sup>th</sup> April to 28<sup>th</sup> April 2013. The focus of the event celebrating completion of the trail and as such the Epic event will pass through a number of communities which will join in the celebrations in each town. When in town, the Ride will stay at caravan parks. When not in town (roughly one third of the time) the Ride will stay in Munda Biddi huts.

The Ride is a supported event so riders' sleeping gear needs moving between campsites. The Ride is guided by two Ride Leaders and will be supported by the two volunteer Transport Coordinators and two cooks.

### Role Objectives:

1. Drive a 4WD, pulling a trailer between campsites,
2. Transport riders' gear, spares, water, first aid etc between campsites each day,
3. Pick up riders en-route in non-emergency situations and take them and/or their bikes to camp or to towns where required,
4. Help set up cooking and campsite where requested by cook,
5. Liaise with Ride Leaders and cook to pick up supplies where needed,
6. Be part of the group completing the first ever end-to-end on the longest continuous off-road cycle trail in the world and join in celebrations in the communities.

### Skills Required:

- Off-road 4WD experience including pulling trailers,
- Open-minded and willingness to help out where required,
- A sense of fun,
- Interest in sharing the experience of a lifetime.

### What is provided:

- Three meals a day except evening meals when in some towns (some meals provided at community events),
- Campsites,
- 4WD troop carriers and trailers,
- Funds for petrol and other supplies required to fulfill the role.

### What Volunteers will need to provide:

- Sleeping gear (tent, sleeping bag, mattress, pillow), clothes and personal needs in a 20kg bag,
- Some meals when in some towns.

### Dates required:

Week 1: 7th April – 14th April.

Week 2: 14th April- 22 April

Week 3: 22 April- 28th April

### Interested?

Please decide which week(s) you are available and then contact Jenny Nichol on 0417 978 919 or [jennynichol@inet.net.au](mailto:jennynichol@inet.net.au).



Department of  
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ROYALTIES  
FOR REGIONS



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

## COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT UNIT

Locked Bag 104  
Bentley Delivery Centre  
WA 6983

Phone: 08 9334 0279  
Fax: 08 9334 0221  
E-mail:  
community.involvement@dec.wa.gov.au



Department of  
Environment and Conservation

Our environment, our future



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 (08) 9334 0582

You can now find DEC Parks on social media. Follow for updates on volunteering and other information on DEC national parks -



[www.facebook.com/decparkswa](http://www.facebook.com/decparkswa)



[@DECParksWA](https://twitter.com/DECParksWA)



[www.flickr.com/groups/decparks/](http://www.flickr.com/groups/decparks/)

For information on DEC volunteering, visit [www.dec.wa.gov.au/community-and-education/volunteer-programs.html](http://www.dec.wa.gov.au/community-and-education/volunteer-programs.html)


## How to help birds avoid windows


wildlife  
watch




### You will need:

- card 
  - black marker pen 
  - scissors 
  - thread or fishing line 
  - suction cup, blu-tack or duct tape 
- You can find these on most shower puffs.

- 1 Sketch a large bird shape on your card, and colour it in with your black pen. Cut it out. 

- 2 Make a small hole in the top of the bird and tie it onto a short thread. 

- 3 Hang the bird outside a window to break up reflections on the glass. It will also move in the wind. 

### Some shapes to try:



Attach with a suction cup, blu-tack or duct tape.

[www.wildlifewatch.org.uk](http://www.wildlifewatch.org.uk)

# WILDCARE helpline

FOR SICK, INJURED OR ORPHANED NATIVE WILDLIFE



Department of  
Environment and Conservation



**(08) 9474 9055**