

Community Involvement Unit newsletter



Department of
Environment and Conservation

Our environment, our future



May 2013 edition

Firstly, a big welcome to our new volunteers that have joined the DEC community since the last issue, and thank you to everyone for providing your time, expertise, knowledge and often financial support to volunteer programs in the department.

You may be aware that it has been resolved to separate the two distinct functions provided by the current Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC).

From 1 July, the Community Involvement Unit will be part of the new Department of Parks and Wildlife. The environmental regulation department will retain the name DEC.

This change will provide a renewed focus on our work and we anticipate that all services for volunteers will be maintained.

A second significant bit of news was the unexpected death of Keiran McNamara the Director General of DEC after a short battle with cancer.

Keiran spent all his working life in environment and conservation and has left a significant legacy in Western Australia

for all of us who value parks and wild places. Mr. Jim Sharp is currently acting Director General.

Whilst on leave in New South Wales recently Hugh was able to attend a workshop for coordinators of Campground Host (CGH) volunteer programs.

This workshop was to draft a proposed national framework for CGH programs across Australia. He also attended a two day training event for NSW Campground Host volunteers.

The main outcome will be increased collaboration and confirmation of best practice, particularly within Campground Host programs.

Hugh reports that, in comparison, our recruitment, training, support, and rewards systems are amongst the best in Australia!!

In particular the number and diversity of DEC volunteer programs is significant. Some States have only recently commenced using campground hosts and other volunteers to add value to visitor experiences in national parks and at other locations.

Finally – we are in the final quarter of the year with regards to lodging hours, issuing rewards and planning for our Volunteer of the Year event in late November.

You are all “stars” but if there is someone you work with as a volunteer who you consider deserves special recognition – please contact the Community Involvement Unit via the email address or phone number on the back page to discuss.

If you can submit quarterly timesheets for the last quarter as soon as possible after 30 June (or earlier) it will help us tremendously in collating end-of-year figures and issuing rewards.

Thanks and stay safe!

From all at the

Community Involvement Unit

Hugh, Lorene, Lee, Sonia, Brooke and Josey

Healthy Parks
Healthy People



Inside this issue:

River Guardians and Dolphin Watch	3
Smartphone Apps	6
Contact the CIU	8

Also:

- Campground host vacancies
- Volunteer opportunities

Campground Host Vacancies

We have a number of Campground host vacancies coming up in the next few months, as follows and in no particular order:

In **June**, there is a vacancy at the spectacular **Mount Augustus National Park** - around 850kms from Perth. Contact **Steve Toole** at the DEC Carnarvon office on **9941 3754** or email Stephen.toole@dec.wa.gov.au

Yardie Creek camp in **Cape Range National Park** for two months from 1st October to the 30th November 2013. Contact **Phil Arthur**, National Park Ranger on **9949 2528** (via Milyering Visitor Centre or **9947 8041** via the DEC Exmouth office) or email Phillip.arthur@dec.wa.gov.au

Silent Grove campground in **King Leopold Ranges Conservation Park**, West Kimberley requires hosts in June - you will need a 4WD and 4WD Campervan to access this site. If you're keen, contact **Dave Woods** on **9195 5500** or Mob: **0409 023 305** or email David.woods@dec.wa.gov.au



Moon over Mount Augustus © G Cole

Millstream Chichester National Park has the following vacancies:

Crossing Pool - April, September October (Non-generator)

Miliyanha - April, September October (Generators Allowed)

Stargazers - April, May, June, July (second week), September October (Non-generator)

For these, contact Ranger Steve on **9184 5144** or email stephen.breedveld@dec.wa.gov.au

Coalseam Conservation Park in the Midwest has a vacancy from Mid September to Mid October. Contact Julia Sercombe for more details on **9921 5955** or Mob: **0427 982 758** or email Julia.sercombe@dec.wa.gov.au



Millstream Chichester National Park © B Russell

The **Goldfields** region are looking for hosts for the **Goongarrie Homestead** from now, through to November (except August and September). Please contact **Nigel Wessels** for more information on **9080 5501**, Mob **0427 412 828** or email nigel.wessels@dec.wa.gov.au

And lastly, in the **Shark Bay** district, the **Peron Homestead** needs hosts for the month of July, and there are vacancies at **Bottle Bay** for the whole year (April – October).

If you are interested in these, or need more details, please contact

Chris McMonagle, A/Senior Ranger on **9948 1208**

or email chris.mcmonagle@dec.wa.gov.au

Healthy Parks
Healthy People



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 the program and becoming a Campground Host, please visit:
www.dec.wa.gov.au/community-and-education/volunteer-programs/campground-hosting.html
or call 9334 0279.

River Guardians and Dolphin Watch

River Guardians are friends of the Swan and Canning Rivers and help keep the rivers healthy by getting involved with the protection and restoration of the Swan Canning Riverpark.

Becoming a *River Guardians* member gives you an opportunity to connect with other friends of the rivers across the catchment area and involved in river activities such as cultural tours and demonstrations, canoeing, and opportunities to volunteer to help keep the rivers healthy.



Above - Garden makeover – RiverWise in the garden course

Other benefits of becoming a member of the River Guardians include:

- Free membership program that connects people with the rivers and activities to help protect them.
- Discounts with participating riverside businesses, invitations to free events and activities, members are kept up to date with river issues, free subscription to RiverView magazine.
- RiverWise courses – members learn how to be RiverWise in your garden, in your house and out and about with free training.

There are currently more than 1500 River Guardian members.

When you become a *River Guardians* member you will receive invitations to be involved in various volunteer projects and you can be involved as little or as much as you like.

One of these projects is ***Dolphin Watch***, where you can contribute to new scientific discoveries on bottlenose dolphins in our rivers.

Currently there are 461 registered and trained volunteers monitoring dolphins in the Riverpark, with **6342** dolphin reports received from volunteers since the project began!

Volunteers helped to track Gizmo, an entangled dolphin calf last year, which helped DEC monitor the calf and its mother until rescue.

For more information on River Guardians and volunteering on the Dolphin Watch project please visit www.riverguardians.com



Above: Dolphin Watch volunteer Eleanor Bollam



New volunteers needed for important research

The Rockingham Bays Seagrass Monitoring Group is in need of new volunteers. Can you help them?

They monitor seagrass patches at five sites from Mangles Bay to Becher Point in Warnbro Sound.

The dates are arranged at the beginning of each new year, hopefully fitting in with the current members and their availability.

What they do: On five Saturday mornings during the summer months they set out at 8am from the closest boat ramp to that day's monitoring site and locate marked patches with a GPS and some very keen-eyed people.

Working in small teams, two people take labelled photos, one takes measurements under water and two observe the seagrass conditions.



One other person stays on the boat to take recordings. It's all very simple and training is provided each time as required.

Afterwards, if time permits they gather for a sausage sizzle or a hot cuppa and cake.

What is needed: Six people per boat (they currently have one boat available), a snorkel, face mask and wet suit or rashie. Also, a full Saturday morning of your time, as finding overgrown markers can sometimes be slow, not to mention windy days can slow things up a bit!

If you would like to help: Please contact Chris on **9529 3226** or **0410 118 517** or email her on:

oldfatbat@hotmail.com



Volunteers needed!

Kaarakin Black Cockatoo Conservation Centre needs a bigger work force!

They are currently looking for volunteers with experience with welding, construction, trade skills etc who would like to donate some time to the Black Cockatoos.

Help is desperately needed for ongoing projects such as aviary construction, clinic fit-out and aviary maintenance (to name a few).

They are located on Mills Road East, near Martin WA, just off the Tonkin Highway. If you want to put your skills to good use, please call Kaarakin on 9390 2288 or email contact@kaarakin.com

For more information about Kaarakin's work visit their website www.blackcockatoorecovery.com or visit their Facebook page.



The **Wildcare helpline** is seeking early rising volunteers to help injured wildlife.

Working in the comfort of your own home between the hours 6.30-8.30am, you will be responding to emergency calls for injured wildlife.

The **Wildcare helpline** is looking for people with:

- ✓ The ability to express empathy
- ✓ A calm & professional manner when dealing with stressful situations
- ✓ A commitment to fulfill regular shifts
- ✓ Problem solving skills
- ✓ The ability to maintain caller confidentiality

If you're looking for a rewarding experience and to give back to your community, then train to become a helpline volunteer.

For more information contact Sonia on 08 **9334 0279** or email community.involvement@dec.wa.gov.au

Smartphone Apps



EveryTrail is a great way to share trips, connect with other travellers and find great new things to do and places to explore.

You can plot your trip and create interactive maps by adding your photos and videos and experiences to share with other EveryTrail users.

The downloadable guides are available for iPhone and Android smart phones and can be stored on your phone to take with you on holiday. Mobile reception is not necessary to access your stored guides.

DEC now has 32 park guides on EveryTrail, with still more in the pipeline.

Go to <http://www.everytrail.com/partner/dec> - set up a free account, select a guide, and it will be sent straight to your phone.

You can also download the app to take EveryTrail with you on holiday.

Then you can quickly download more guides, and maps and share your travels.

There are free and paid versions of the EveryTrail app available on the iPhone / iPad:

<http://www.everytrail.com/iphone.php>

and Android devices:

<http://www.everytrail.com/android>



Search and Rescue App

The **WA Police Air Wing Search and Rescue Application** is intended to assist in the rescue of people who are lost or injured in the foothills or at sea in Western Australia.

It is a tool that will assist users in contacting rescue services, and pass vital information on to Police who can expedite a rescue situation.

This application provides a number of useful tools, including:

1. Sending location information to rescuers: An automatically generated SMS including the GPS coordinates can be sent to the users contact list, along with a phone call to emergency services.
2. A light source for night vision equipment so as to attract the rescue helicopter.
3. Plotting GPS coordinates on a map: keeping track of your location and where you've been.
4. Providing survival tips, compiled by Bob Cooper of Bob Cooper Survival, presented in two formats – 'Before you go' advises on what to take when going out into the bush.



It also features a survival guide to follow in the event of an emergency, covering the 'Big 5' priorities of: shelter, water, signals, warmth, and food.

The App is free, but currently only available on Android devices via Google play - <https://play.google.com/store>

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



Seniors Recreation Council of WA

supported by

Shire of Mundaring,
Healthway; DSR & Nyoongar Sports

present:

Be Active

Seniors Activity/Information Day

(Over 45 yrs.)

When: Wednesday 8th May 2013

Time: 10.00am to 2.00pm.

Where: Camp Leschenaultia, 400 Leschenaultia Place, Chidlow



**A special day that will provide recreational
ACTIVITIES and information to
Seniors, everyone is welcome.**



Please wear comfortable footwear (soft soled footwear).

Morning tea and lunch will be provided free of charge

ENJOY

**Carpet Bowls, Mini Golf, X box Kinect, seated hockey,
Indoor Bocce, Quoits, Pole Walking and other activities.**

FOR CATERING PURPOSES BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL

For further information, or if you wish to attend please contact:

Dawn Yates Seniors Recreation Council of WA **9492 9772**

Julie Jackson Department of Sport and Recreation **9492 9839**

Kaye Bannerman .. Hub of the Hills **9290 6683**



Find thirty minutes of physical activity everyday for good health"

Healthy Parks
Healthy People



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



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



www.flickr.com/groups/decparks/

For information on DEC volunteering, visit www.dec.wa.gov.au/community-and-education/volunteer-programs.html

Basic first aid for wildlife

If you find sick, injured or orphaned wildlife, the best thing you can do to increase their survival chances is to take them to an experienced wildlife rehabilitator or vet.

To find your nearest one, call the volunteer-run **WILDCARE helpline** on 08 9474 9055 - they hold a list of DEC registered volunteer rehabilitators across WA. It is very important to remember not to keep wildlife without seeking expert advice, as the animal may not survive.

You should contain the animal securely so that it does not injure itself further or injure you. If you have concerns about picking up an animal, ask someone to help. Use a towel or similar to gently pick up the animal and place it into an appropriately sized ventilated box, keeping the animal:

1. **WARM**
2. **In the DARK**
3. **In a QUIET place**

This reduces stress levels and make transportation easier. It's also important to have as little contact with the animal as possible – no poking or kiddies please!

If you are helping an animal on the roadside please remember your own safety as well as the safety of the animal. Injured animals may be frightened and stressed and can be very dangerous so be careful of teeth, claws, beaks etc when approaching.

To assist the rehabilitator and the future release, it is important to note the location that you found the animal, the time of day and in what condition it was when you found it.

Do not offer food or water unless advised to do so by a rehabilitator (NEVER bread or milk!), and **always** wash your hands thoroughly after handling wildlife.

For more information on how to help specific species, please contact the **WILDCARE helpline** on **08 9474 9055**



WILDCARE helpline

FOR SICK, INJURED OR ORPHANED NATIVE WILDLIFE



Department of
Environment and Conservation



(08) 9474 9055