



Community Involvement Unit newsletter February 2014

Welcome to 2014 – another exciting year with already one month gone! I have a few items but first I must thank everyone who responded to our recent volunteer survey which hundreds of you took the time to complete.

The results will be used to improve our services to you and to convince government and other partners of the value of your work with DPaW. Your objective feedback is very powerful .

It never fails to inspire me when I reflect on the personal satisfaction that you all seem to enjoy completing specific tasks, providing an expert service, fundraising or caring for the environment.

The benefits that we often don't appreciate include a sense of belonging, being valued, interacting with other like-minded individuals and of course being part of a bigger conservation and recreation service.

Someone once said *"Alone we can do well – but working together we do amazing things"*.

You do amazing things all year round so THANK YOU.

In a large extended family such as DPaW we find all sorts of characters, values, opinions, optimism, negativity, despair and jubilation. Luckily we don't all have a 'despair' day at the same time so those of us who are having a good day can be sensitive, listen, advise and provide help and support if required.

Whether you realise it or not, unless you are working in isolation, you provide each other mutual support all of the time. Thanks for being there. Sometimes we may have to agree to disagree – but it is good to have those conversations and move on.

It has taken me many years to accept that I cannot provide a gold medal performance all the time – the *"constant quest for perfection"*. It may be what I strive for but impossible to always achieve. I value and appreciate excellence in any endeavour but we lesser beings will continue to do the best we can and work hard. I believe that is all that can be expected. – I now sleep better at night!

I have another story about how working together we achieve amazing things but have run out of space so shall close with the challenging problem:

How do you retrieve a trapped Corella on the outside of a verandah on the second storey of an apartment block? No stair access, no ladders, no fire brigade and no cherry picker.

Michelle at the Darling Range Wildlife Shelter has the answer....

Hugh

Community Involvement Unit Coordinator

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Campground host workshop

In the second week of November 2013, the Department of Parks and Wildlife's Community Involvement Unit played host to 170 volunteer Campground Hosts at their annual Information and Training workshop event.

The workshop is an opportunity for new and experienced Hosts to share stories, tips and advice with fellow volunteers, before embarking on their travels in the year ahead.

It is also where park rangers (pictured below) get the chance to sell their parks to the Hosts and hopefully recruit these much needed volunteers to assist in their parks. They explain the roles expected; mainly meeting and greeting visitors, occasional fee collection and tidying of the camping areas to help campers have a memorable stay. The rest of the time is the hosts' own.



Other presentations included the changes to Customary Activities on Country from DPaW's Aboriginal Heritage Unit and how they may affect the Hosts' role. A talk on the illegal smuggling of WA reptiles was also very well received and the Nature Protection Branch now have 170 extra pairs of eyes and ears out in the parks.

The workshop was rounded off, as always, with the results of the photo competition. This year over 200 photos were received, making a tough job for the judges. Winners and some of the other entries can be found here - www.facebook.com/decparkswa/photos_albums



Campground hosts need to have an amiable disposition and a desire to meet and help people. By the looks of the smiles and attitude of this bunch, we seem to have a great team for the year ahead.

Current Campground hosting opportunities:

Campground hosts are urgently required at **Goongarrie** in April. If interested, please contact Nigel Wessels via:

Nigel.wessels@dpaw.wa.gov.au or call **08 9080 5501**. Goongarrie info: <http://parks.dpaw.wa.gov.au/park/goongarrie>

There are a number of vacancies in **Cape Range** in September, October and November—please contact Phil Arthur via Phillip.Arthur@dpaw.wa.gov.au or call **08 9949 2528** or the Exmouth office on **08 9947 8041**.

Potters Gorge campground, Wellington, is in need of hosts for March and/or April—please contact Ranger Jamie Gault via Jamie.gault@dpaw.wa.gov.au if you can help. Info: <http://parks.dpaw.wa.gov.au/site/potters-gorge>

Please note: Campground host vacancies are only available to volunteers who are currently registered as DPaW Campground hosts and have completed the necessary training and information workshops.

For more information on joining the Campground host program, visit:

www.dpaw.wa.gov.au/get-involved/volunteering-opportunities/100-campground-hosting

2013 Volunteer of the Year awards

A husband and wife team who work tirelessly helping to restore former pastoral leases in the Goldfields were named the Department of Parks and Wildlife's Volunteers of the Year.

Keith and Rhonda Skelley, who devoted more than 4,750 hours to protecting threatened species and caretaking remote former pastoral leases, were recognised at the department's annual Volunteer of the Year Awards ceremony in November.



Above: Rhonda and Keith receiving their award from Minister Jacob

Environment Minister Albert Jacob paid tribute to the couple for their contribution to conserving Western Australia's environment.

"Keith and Rhonda are a fine example of the invaluable work of department volunteers who selflessly contribute their valuable skills, knowledge and time to important environmental projects in WA," the Minister said.

The awards celebrate the work of people who volunteer on environmental projects and programs with the department.

Fifteen Outstanding Service Awards were also presented to volunteers for their valuable work across WA, and their service, dedication and commitment. A full list of winners is below.

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

"Highlights for volunteers this year include the ongoing efforts to save the critically endangered western ground parrot; continuing high quality maintenance of the Bibbulmun Track; and supporting department staff in the management of world-class national parks.

"The tasks undertaken by department volunteers are varied and often demanding, but ultimately rewarding.

"Each department volunteer is making a valuable contribution to promoting and implementing park management and nature conservation programs throughout WA."

2013 Volunteer of the Year award:

KEITH AND RHONDA SKELLELY

Campground hosts, Kalgoorlie, Goldfields Reserve Management and Operations Rangelands Restorations

Outstanding Service awards:

CATHIE O'NEILL

Swan Estuary Reserves Action Group

GEOFF AND RUTH BYRNE
WA Herbarium

PETER WILMOT
Lake Mealup Recovery Program

BILL BROOKES
Yanchep National Park

EDDIE SEAMAN
Stirling Range National Park

FRIENDS OF THE WESTERN GROUND PARROT

ISABEL BUSCH
Bibbulmun Track

GUY SPOUGE
Bibbulmun Track

LAURENT GAILLARD
Esperance District programs

LYNDA SMITH
Friends of the Spectacles

PETER SWEETMAN
Bibbulmun Track

RAY TURNER
Yanchep National Park

DAVE MULHOLLAND
Yanchep National Park

STEPHEN TODD
Penguin Island

MARY HOGGART
Esperance Herbarium



Above: Hon Albert Jacob MLA addresses the audience before presenting the awards

“Don’t dump that fish” – keep aquarium fish where they belong

The Department of Fisheries’ ‘Don’t dump that fish’ campaign was launched in 2013 by Western Australia’s Chief Scientist Professor Lyn Beazley. It is part of the Department’s program to improve WA’s aquatic biosecurity defences.

The campaign is supported by the Department of Agriculture and Food, the aquarium industry, and the Perth Cichlid Society.

It is designed to raise awareness of the impacts of releasing unwanted aquarium fish, snails and plants into waterways, toilets, drains or the ocean. It also provides advice on how to responsibly dispose of such unwanted pets.



Above: Department of Fisheries Director General with WA’s Chief Scientist Professor Lyn Beazley at the campaign launch.

“With millions of fish being transported around the globe, importation of aquarium fish is potentially a major source of invasive species.”

“Given the difficulties in eradicating pests once they are established, the Department’s focus is on prevention by ensuring access to relevant information,” she said.

“Fish owners who no longer want their fish are encouraged to give them to other responsible owners or an organisation with an aquarium, or to seek advice from their local pet shop.”

Advice on how to dispose of them is included in a new brochure which can be found on the Department of Fisheries’ website at:

www.fish.wa.gov.au/biosecurity

or visit:

www.kb.rspca.org.au

and search using the term ‘humanely euthanase fish’.

Sightings of suspected aquatic pests should be reported to the Department’s FISHWATCH service on **1800 815 507** or email:

biosecurity@fish.wa.gov.au

or through the free **WA PestWatch app**, which can be downloaded from the App Store and Google Play Store. See following page for more information.



Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Fisheries**

Don’t dump that fish!



Supported by the Perth Cichlid Society Inc.

“The wider community is a huge resource in the fight to prevent aquatic pests establishing in WA.

Industry-supported programs, such as this ‘Don’t dump that fish’ campaign, are powerful ways of engaging many people on aquatic biosecurity issues,” Professor Beazley said.

Smartphone and tablet apps

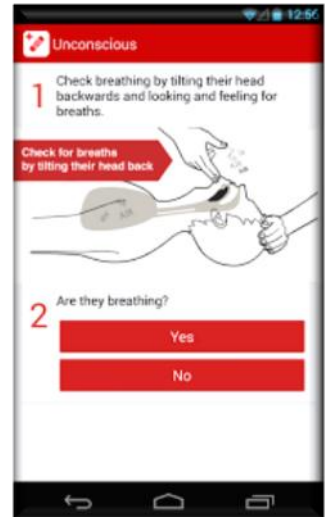
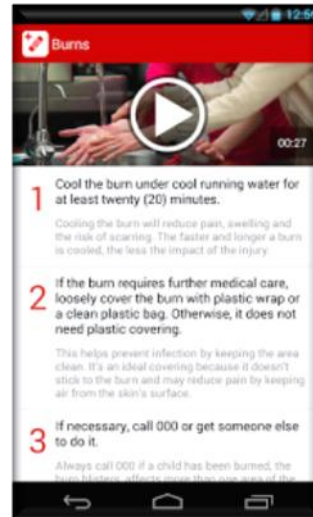


The Australian Red Cross First Aid app is a **free**, comprehensive pocket guide to First Aid, giving you access to the most up to date First Aid information anytime, anywhere.

The app supports the important life saving skills acquired through Red Cross First Aid training with quick and easy to use instructions, interactive quizzes to test your knowledge and helpful videos and images.

This comprehensive app is a tried and tested resource from the world's largest provider of First Aid training and will complement any existing First Aid knowledge — please note: it is not designed to replace hands-on training.

The app is supported by both Apple and Android tablets and phones and is available for download on [iTunes](#) and [Google Play](#).



WA PestWatch - A new app to improve aquatic biosecurity



The Department of Fisheries recently released WA PestWatch, an application to help people report pests in our rivers and oceans.

Western Australia's Chief Scientist Professor Lyn Beazley helped launch the new app. She said that recent discoveries of Asian paddle crabs in Perth's Swan River were examples of how it was possible for marine and freshwater invaders to arrive here and potentially threaten our aquatic environment.

"All West Australians can help by reporting any unusual fish, seaweed, mussel, worm, crab or other aquatic invertebrate they think might be a pest species. The department can use this information in improving WA's defences, to help keep our waters pest and disease free for all to enjoy.

"This new app will also give people with smart mobile devices an interactive tool they can use to identify pests, when and where they see them.

"It's a great way for everyone to work together in the fight against aquatic pests."

The WA PestWatch app can be downloaded for free on smart phones and tablet devices from the [iTunes](#) app store and [Google Play](#) store. A web-based version is also available from the department's biosecurity information pages at www.fish.wa.gov.au/biosecurity.

"WA PestWatch will help people track pests reported by other users and find out more about common marine and freshwater pests," she said.

"People also have the option to report aquatic pests to FISHWATCH on 1800 815 507.

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

Wildcare helpline bushfire advice for wildlife

When bushfires occur the Wildcare helpline and rehabilitation centres are often inundated with calls from the public needing assistance with injured wildlife. It is encouraging to know that people care so much about our wildlife.

Many calls we take are from people wanting to assist with the rescue of injured wildlife in a direct way and while these offers are appreciated at times of crisis, it is best for the any wildlife found that it is cared for by registered rehabilitators. To find your nearest vet or registered rehabilitator call the Wildcare helpline on **9474 9055**

It is important for people who live in areas where fires have been to keep the following in mind to help wildlife in the aftermath:

- * Do not attempt to enter any fire areas until authorised to do so by fire control officers.
- * Keep pets indoors and under control wherever possible.
- * Leave bowls of water out for animals escaping the fires – but do not leave food out for wildlife in national parks
- * Keep a cardboard box and towel in the boot of your car in case you find an injured animal – if you rescue an animal that has been burnt, wrap it loosely, place it in a cardboard box and keep it in a dark, quiet and warm place.
- * Do not try to feed the animal, but do have water available.
- * Call the Wildcare helpline for advice, or take it to a local vet or wildlife rehabilitation centre for assistance if you know where one is.

DPaW Alerts app: Now available in the app store, “DPaW Alerts” allows users to keep up to date with alerts on bushfires, park and road closures as well as active prescribed burns. It also includes alerts from the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) and the latest DPaW news.

This free app is essential for anyone planning on visiting national parks, particularly during the fire season. Search for DPaW Alerts in the iTunes app store or visit:

<https://itunes.apple.com/au/app/dpaw-alerts/id767156295>

WILDCARE helpline website update

The Wildcare helpline is currently going through the process of updating information on the DPaW website. The Wildcare helpline web pages are intended as an offline resource for members of the public to gain relevant and useful information regarding assisting sick, injured or orphaned wildlife.

They are intended to include advice on the most frequently asked questions from the (approximately) 10,000 calls that the volunteers on the Wildcare helpline receive each year. The pages are not intended to replace the Wildcare helpline, but to increase the availability of correct information, particularly when the lines are busy or unavailable.

Currently, information includes basic first aid as well as a list of wildlife rehabilitation centres and out of hours vets, plus links to a list of downloadable ‘Living with Wildlife’ pdfs. The additional information will include more specific advice by wildlife class e.g. mammal, bird, reptile etc or other specific scenarios, such as whale strandings or reptile removal.

The DPaW Wildcare helpline pages can be found here:

www.dpaw.wa.gov.au/about-us/contact-us/wildcare-helpline

If you have any comments or suggestions for the Wildcare helpline web pages, please email:

Lee.hollingsworth@dpaw.wa.gov.au

If you are interested in volunteering on the Wildcare helpline, please email:

community.involvement@dpaw.wa.gov.au or call **9334 0279**.



23 people, 3 days, 3 tonnes of rubbish....

Beaches on Dirk Hartog Island National Park were a hive of activity in October when DPaW staff and volunteers got stuck into a big beach clean-up.

Twenty-three people volunteered to collect rubbish from the island's beaches, including members from the Yadgalah Association and the Toyota LandCruiser 4WD Club, whose members travelled up from Perth for the clean-up.



No time to enjoy the scenery for volunteers Ben and Peter

DPaW World Heritage Interpretation Officer Susan Pedersen said the 4WD club volunteers were central to the effort, skilfully chauffeuring the clean-up teams around the island and getting a head start on the work before the rest of the crew arrived.

The work crew camped out on the island for the duration of the clean-up and, with the help of a Coast West grant, they chartered a boat and barge to ferry the rubbish back to the mainland.

"The department's Marine Park Coordinator Dave Holley worked with the Yadgalah Association on the application for the Coast West grant and Yadgalah volunteers worked tirelessly with everyone picking up rubbish and ferrying rubbish from the island to the mainland," Susan said.

All DPaW staff that could be spared from the Shark Bay District also went across for the clean-up. The rubbish collected was itemised in order to provide data for the Australian Marine Debris Initiative, a network of communities, schools, industries, government agencies and individuals focused on reducing the amount of marine debris washing into the ocean.

"The team left the island exhausted but extremely satisfied at what had been achieved and the difference it has made. There's nothing quite as satisfying as a job well done and this was definitely a job well done by everyone," Susan said.



The clean-up began on Withnell beach where rubbish had been exposed by recent storm surges

David Holley, who brought the group together for the clean-up, said that he really appreciated the hard work of all the volunteers.

For more information on Dirk Hartog Island visit: <http://parks.dpaw.wa.gov.au/park/dirk-hartog-island>

Here and right: Many hands make light work; loading the barge at the end of the clean-up



Join us for the 2014 Great Cocky Count 6 April 2014

Carnaby's Black-Cockatoos need your help! Join us as we carry out our annual survey of their numbers across the state. It is simple, fun and every survey counts.

WHEN

Sunday 6 April at sunset

WHERE

Night roosts across the southwest from Geraldton to Esperance

REGISTER ONLINE AT

W www.birdlife.org.au/carnabys/great-cocky-count



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

Hugh Finn

P 9287 2251 or 0400 177 615

E greatcockycount@birdlife.org.au

Australia's voice for birds since 1901

BirdLife Australia is dedicated to achieving outstanding conservation results for our native birds and their habitats. With our specialised knowledge and the commitment of an Australia-wide network of volunteers and supporters, we are creating a bright future for Australia's birds.

birdlife.org.au



FOUND A ROOST SITE?

Roost sites are places where black-cockatoos come to rest at night. We need to find as many as possible, for both white-tailed and red-tailed cockies. Call or email to tell us all about it!

birds are in our nature



CARING
FOR
OUR
COUNTRY



Community Involvement Unit

Locked Bag 104
Bentley Delivery Centre
WA 6983

Phone: 08 9334 0279
Fax: 08 9334 0221

E-mail: community.involvement@dpaw.wa.gov.au

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#exploreparkswa

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

The CIU supports DPaW 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 us via:

Community.involvement@dpaw.wa.gov.au

For information on volunteering for DPaW, visit:

www.dpaw.wa.gov.au/get-involved/volunteering-opportunities

Caretaker vacancy

An opportunity has arisen for a live-in Caretaker couple, required for Lions Dryandra Woodland Village, Narrogin.

The position is for approximately 8 weeks in July and August, 2014.

Previous caravan or holiday village caretaking experience is essential although training will be given.

A modest remuneration will be provided.

For more information on the village visit: www.dryandravillage.org.au

or contact John or Lisa for further details on:

(08) 9884 5231

Microbat special topic talk

In this presentation by Joe Tonga, local microbat enthusiast, see the world through the eyes of microbats, and hear the pulsing of sound as they move with extreme agility through the night.

Learn more about this exciting and mysterious native animal.

Date: Thursday 27 March, 2014

Time: 6pm – 8pm

Cost: \$25

Venue: Keiran McNamara Conservation Science Centre, Kensington WA

Places are limited.

For more information and a booking form, visit: <http://www.dpaw.wa.gov.au/get-involved/wildlife-rehabilitation-and-courses/159-wildcare-courses>

(Note: this talk is for general information only – there is no focus on microbat rehabilitation.)