



Community Involvement Unit newsletter February 2015

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2015 and Happy New Year to all of our volunteers.

As you may have heard the Community Involvement Unit's coordinator, Hugh Maclean, has decided to take a well-earned retirement to enjoy some time on the road and with his growing collection of grandchildren.

Hugh was appointed as the Community Involvement Unit Coordinator in April 2010, after a stint with the Tourism and Marketing Unit following secondment from the Department of Sport and Recreation.

Hugh's broad experience in working with community groups and volunteers came to the fore, as did his obvious care and concern for the welfare and wellbeing of the department's volunteer community. He was able to implement a range of significant changes and improvements to the program that have seen volunteer numbers and hours continue to grow.

Hugh will be missed by many and we wish him all the best in his retirement. We will endeavour to continue serving the community with Hugh's spirit, passion and commitment.

Looking ahead, the results of last year's volunteer survey have been collated and analysed (a brief sum-

mary can be found inside). Lots of useful comments for improvements were submitted with the survey and we have taken them on board.

We will be gradually implementing as many of your suggestions as we feasibly can and will be carrying out future work with them in mind.

We received around 800 responses from the survey, so it's obvious that the opportunity to comment was needed - thanks to everyone that responded.

The survey was completely anonymous and overall the responses were positive, with respondees citing they enjoyed "helping hundreds of people to greater enjoy our national parks" and "meeting like-minded people working for the same goals in the parks" among some of the comments.

As this is being written, there are a number of bush fires burning across the state. Please spare a thought and support volunteer fire fighters wherever you can.

Wildlife also has a tough time in the fire season - if you find injured wildlife take it to your nearest vet or wildlife rehabilitation centre. If you need to find out where that is, or need further advice, call the Wildcare Helpline on 9474 9055.

If you have any questions, suggestions or want to get in touch with us for any reason, please email the Unit at community.involvement@dpaw.wa.gov.au

We look forward to working with you in the year ahead.

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The Community Involvement Unit



Campground Host Workshop

Around 150 new and old volunteers attended the Campground Host workshop, which was held on November 6 and 7 2014 at the Keiran McNamara Conservation Science Centre in Kensington.

The workshop is a chance for around 150 Campground Hosts and Parks and Wildlife rangers to get together to share tales of camping in WA's national parks, and to organise hosting opportunities in the upcoming season.

The annual workshop is a chance for rangers at some of the Department of Parks and Wildlife's 60+ hosted campsites to tempt hosts to volunteer for them.



Happy campers



Happy rangers

Hosts were welcomed by Parks and Visitor Services Director Peter Sharp and Assistant Director Rod Annear, who also gave a talk on the department's [Parks for People initiative](#).

There were also guest speakers from the Department of Health's 'Stay on your Feet' program - more information [here](#).

Other presentations included talks from Parks and Wildlife's [Western Shield project](#), which aims to conserve native species through a series of reintroductions and control of predatory invasive species.

Current Campground Host vacancies

The Goldfields region is seeking expressions of interest for caretaking and/or campground hosting at Lorna Glen (Matuwa), a 244,000 Ha former pastoral station located about 160km north east of Wiluna and by road 700km north of Kalgoorlie - <http://parks.dpaw.wa.gov.au/park/lorna-glen>

They are seeking couples who wish to spend preferably one to three months from mid-March 2015, with a possibility of extension, in a volunteer caretaker role at Lorna Glen or as assistant campground hosts. Caretaking roles include maintenance of the homestead and gardens, monitoring of the solar power supply, visitor management and reserve management. All facilities are provided free plus a \$100 per week additional cost of living allowance.

If you are interested, please contact Tjokkie Pieterse or Ian Kealley on 9080 5555 or Kalgoorlie@dpaw.wa.gov.au for more information

As per departmental policy and as a key nature conservation area no domestic animals or pets are permitted.

There are Host vacancies for one couple in April, two couples in July and two couples for the school holidays in the first two weeks of October at **Karijini National Park**. If you are interested please contact Ranger Steve on Ph. (08) 9189 8147 or email steve.berris@dpaw.wa.gov.au

Please note: campground host vacancies are only available to those volunteers currently registered as DPaW Campground Hosts, that have completed the necessary training and information workshops.

More information on Campground hosting can be found on the DPaW website:

<http://dpaw.wa.gov.au/get-involved/volunteering-opportunities>



Volunteer of the Year Awards 2014

The annual Volunteer of the Year and Outstanding Service awards were held on Friday December 5, 2014.

Around 75 guests, including volunteers and their families, Parks and Wildlife staff and the Minister for Environment Hon Albert Jacob MLA attended the event which recognised the amazing efforts of volunteers involved in Parks and Wildlife volunteer programs across WA.

Monica Iseppi was named the Department of Parks and Wildlife 2014 Volunteer of the Year for creating a database to help the public to identify plant and animal species in Yanchep National Park.



L-R Department of Parks and Wildlife Director General Jim Sharp, 2014 Volunteer of the Year Monica Iseppi and Minister for Environment Albert Jacob MLA

She was presented with her award by Parks and Wildlife Director General Jim Sharp and Environment Minister Albert Jacob.

Mr Jacob praised Ms Iseppi, along with all the volunteers for their expertise, passion and commitment.

“The spirit of volunteers who selflessly contribute their skills, knowledge and time to Parks and Wildlife projects is inspirational,” Mr Jacob said.

“Monica is a great example of a dynamic volunteer who has used her information technology skills to develop a database to raise awareness of the environmental values at Yanchep National Park.

“Monica collected all paper and computerised data about species in the park, organised the data into spreadsheets, updated and integrated the data and made it available to the public through a graphic user interface with a touch screen. That is an impressive result.”

Awardees this year come from a diverse range of volunteer programs including national parks, plant and animal monitoring, wildlife rehabilitation, terrestrial and marine science programs, invasive weed control programs and species recovery projects, among others.



Minister Jacob and Long Service awardees

Fifteen Outstanding Service awards were also presented to volunteers for their service, dedication and commitment to department programs.

Twenty-nine volunteers were presented with Long Service awards certificates for over 20 years continual volunteer work with the department.

A full list of winners can be found on the Parks and Wildlife website [here](#) and you can view a short video featuring interviews with some of the winners [here](#)

Volunteer satisfaction survey 2014

The results from last year's volunteer survey have been analysed and compiled - see right for a snapshot of the results - a more in-depth version should be available later in the year to those interested.

The response was enormous, with around 800 surveys returned to us - so a big THANK YOU to all of you that took the time to complete it.

The returns have been interesting reading and it's been useful to know what you think of the volunteer program and how we may make improvements.

The good news for us was that 84% of respondents said that they were satisfied with their experience as a Department of Parks and Wildlife volunteer, while 86% would recommend it to others and 88% would continue volunteering.

However, there were a number of suggested changes and improvements (as we strive for perfection!) and we have taken your comments on board and will be working to implement some of these in the future.

Some changes have already been made, such as the list of volunteer opportunities on the website to allow you to do more volunteering (one statement that was repeated a few times).

We have since added a list of volunteer projects across the state as a downloadable pdf file on the Parks and Wildlife website: www.dpaw.wa.gov.au/get-involved/volunteering-opportunities

For more information on the survey please contact Parks and Wildlife's Social Science Coordinator - Amanda.smith@dpaw.wa.gov.au

Volunteering for Nature

A snapshot of Department of Parks and Wildlife volunteers

Visitor Research Unit

December 2014

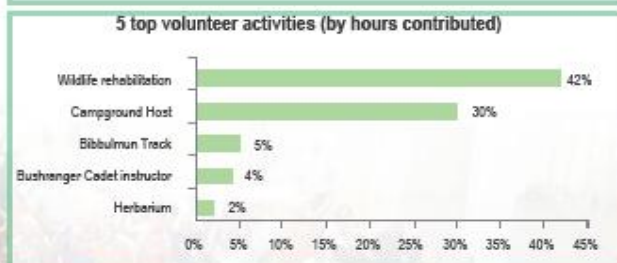
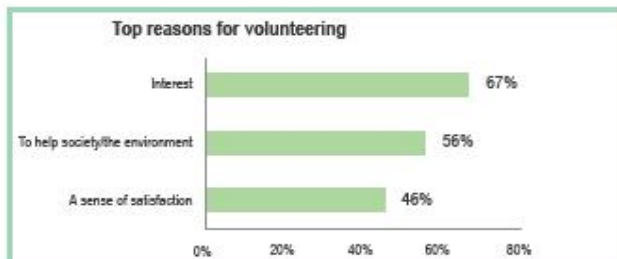
Volunteers are integral to the success and positive image of the Department of Parks and Wildlife. The Visitor Research Unit recently completed a survey that evaluated the effectiveness of the department's volunteer management processes as per the audit recommendations in the 2012 Volunteer Management Audit. In all 844 volunteers participated in the survey.

4,345
Active volunteers

506,285hrs
Total hours volunteered

117hrs
Average hours per year
per volunteer

9.5yrs
Average years as a
departmental volunteer



"I hope I have helped hundreds of people to greater enjoy and appreciate our wonderful parks. I have been charged with temporarily caring for magical places."

"Meeting with like-minded staff and enjoying their company in working for the same goals in the parks and a sense of satisfaction in achievements gained for the general public and the compliments for a nice friendly park."

"The privilege of helping nurse sick wildlife and the joy of seeing those fully recovered. Meeting caring people that bring sick, injured or orphaned wildlife to be looked after. Belonging to a DPaW group of dedicated rehabilitators."

For more information please contact:
Dr Amanda Smith, Social Science Coordinator
Visitor Research Unit, Visitor Communications Branch
Parks and Visitor Services, Department of Parks and Wildlife
Amanda.smith@dpaw.wa.gov.au Ph: (08) 9334 0225 © 2014



Department of
Parks and Wildlife



Join us for the Great Cocky Count Sunday 12 April 2015

CARNABY'S BLACK-COCKATOOS NEED YOUR HELP!

Join us as we carry out our annual survey of their numbers across WA to gain a better understanding of this unique and endangered species.

It's simple, fun and every survey counts!

WHEN

Sunday 12 April at sunset

WHERE

Night roosts across the southwest from Geraldton to Esperance

REGISTER ONLINE AT

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



Please be aware registrations close 2 weeks before the event (Sunday 29 March).

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

Matt Byrne, Great Cocky Count Coordinator

E greatcockycount@birdlife.org.au

P (08) 9287 2251

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



Photo by Keith Lightbody

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 about it!



CARING
FOR
OUR
COUNTRY



Forrestdale Lake Cygnet Rescue by Lorene Bennett & Sonia Chalmers

Each summer Forrestdale Lake dries out and the cygnets are at risk of being predated on by local foxes.

In December Brian Inglis Swan Coastal District Operations Officer sent a message asking for assistance to rescue the young swans.

36 volunteers from the local community and wildlife centres and staff from the City of Armadale plus 11 DPaW staff answered the call.



Briefing volunteers before setting off

At 5.30am, with Brian coordinating from the boardwalk and communicating via radio, the volunteers were split into three groups of 10-12 people and were sent to various parts of the lake.



Setting off across the lake

By 6.30am - it was an amazing sight to see that many people circling the lake slowly, trying to shepherd the cygnets so they could be contained into a small area.

A small group of six cygnets broke into the reed area and a few people needed to move quickly into the long bulrushes to flush them back out. Luckily there were no close encounters with snakes.

Back out on the lake, the circle tightened and eventually, 16 cygnets were caught. A second group of three cygnets were found on the northern side of the lake and several members went back out and successfully brought them in.

All cygnets were assessed to be in good health and estimated to be very close to flying within a week or so – however, a week may have been too late for them if they weren't picked up. All were released immediately into Bibra Lake.

The lake was quite muddy this year, luckily no one fell (though, the thought of being the first to do a face plant into the mud keeps you pretty balanced).



The Community Involvement Unit's Sonia bringing a rescued cygnet back

The morning had a strong community feel, with everyone there for the single purpose to help some of our native wildlife. Thanks go to all involved for giving their time and expertise for a very successful operation.



Fun in the Sun by Chelsea Bates

River Guardians PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

Great prizes including cameras, river cruises and kayaks up for grabs!

COURTING PRINCE TOMMY: MARRIE BLUMS
NEW YEAR'S TWILIGHT SAIL: REBECCA HORTON
SWAN RIVER SUNSET: LES LEVINE

What's your STORY?

Share your favourite places, people, activities and wildlife around Perth's Swan and Canning rivers

Amateur, Junior, People's Choice and Instagram categories

Entries close Thursday 12 March 2015

Full details including terms and conditions at www.riverguardians.com



Volunteers needed

The Department of Parks and Wildlife are the largest recreational trail managers in Western Australia, with hundreds of individual trails and thousands of kilometres spread across our spectacular state, including walk, mountain bike, horse, paddle, drive, snorkel and dive trails.

One of the biggest challenges we face is providing up to date information to the public on such a vast trail network, and provide the opportunities to recreate and explore.

Over the last couple of years, the department worked closely with the community not-for-profit organisation **Trails WA**, to include the department's trails on the trails.wa.com.au website. We've made a start, but with so many trails across the state, we're looking for a couple of interested volunteer to help us speed up the process!

Prospective volunteers will need good communication skills, along with confidence in using the internet and databases. They will have the opportunity to work with the Recreation and Trails Unit team at our Kensington offices, who will undertake all necessary training and support.

If you are interested in volunteering, please email your details and experience to:

stuart.harrison@dpaw.wa.gov.au

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to give me a call on 9334 0599.

Stuart Harrison
Coordinator – Recreation and Trails Unit

Community Involvement Unit

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www.flickr.com/groups/decparks/



<http://instagram.com/exploreparkswa>

#exploreparkswa

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

The CIU supports 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

Smartphone app



Australian bites and stings

Learn more about Australia's venomous creatures and what to do if you are bitten or stung. Download the Australian bites & stings app and be prepared before you head out into Australia's great outdoors!

This app has been prepared especially for Australia by bioCSL – one of the world's few manufacturers of antivenoms – with the expert assistance of the Australian Venom Research Unit (AVRU).

The app includes:

- A 'Be prepared' checklist to equip you with the essentials before you venture out
- Instructions on what to do if you are bitten or stung.
- Emergency services call button.
- A guide to basic first aid, including the pressure bandaging and immobilisation (PBI) method.
- State by state guide to venomous snake locations.

Simple & free. It could help save your life, or help you to save the life of someone else.

Download the Australian bites & stings app:

on iTunes:

<https://itunes.apple.com/au/app/australian-bites-and-stings/id765162888?mt=8>

Or Google Play:

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.healthy.AustralianBitesAndStings&hl=en>

