

# Volunteer News

## Department of Parks and Wildlife



The recent inaugural Parks and Wildlife staff conference focused on community engagement and featured a range of speakers talking about working with Aboriginal people, partnering with Parks and Wildlife, engaging with the community, as well as volunteering and citizen science.

Welcome to the November 2015 edition of the newly-named 'Volunteer News'. There have been a number of changes since the beginnings of the formal volunteer program in 1989.

Before 1989, the department had no policy or guidelines on managing volunteers. Volunteers had been utilised, mostly on a needs basis, since around 1985. They were recruited by word of mouth to help with specific activities such as beach clean ups or whale strandings and other emergencies.

It was realised there are major benefits in properly engaging volunteers and, as a result, policies and guidelines were produced and a community involvement coordinator was appointed – so began the volunteer program.

The pictures above are from the very first volunteer newsletter from June 1990, when there were 700 volunteers. The number of registered volunteers and the number of projects has steadily increased and today there are around 300 projects, more than 12,000 registered volunteers, with about 4500 of these active annually.

The principles remain the same however, and volunteers continue to play a vital role in conservation and help the department to achieve its goals.



Conference field trip: Parks and Wildlife staff saw first-hand the value of volunteers at Native Arc Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre, Bibra Lake. Photo Karla Graham

The new Volunteer and Community Engagement team was officially introduced to the department. It now includes the former Swan River Trust Community Engagement team of Marnie, Rachel and Jason, alongside the existing team of Lee, Lorene and Sonia.

The new structure hasn't been fully defined as yet but for now we are working together on improving and expanding the department's volunteer program. In support of this, Lee and Jason spoke on the benefits that engaging volunteers brings the department, the community and to the volunteers themselves.

We're looking forward to working with you in the future - thanks as always for your dedication.

*Lee, Lorene, Sonia, Jason, Marnie & Rachel  
Volunteer and Community Engagement*

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# Wildcare Helpline report 2014-15

2014 -15 continued to be a busy year for the Wildcare Helpline, proving what a valuable and much-needed service it is.

In total, an incredible 11,202 phone calls were received by the 42 home and office-based volunteer advisers. In doing so, these volunteers contributed 8449 hours (or 1126 work days!) of their time to the Wildcare Helpline. That is a lot of wildlife potentially saved. The largest amount of calls were related to birds – baby birds, swooping magpies, ducks in the pool...the list goes on.

In addition to the calls, there were 8885 unique visits to the [Helpline web pages](#). These pages have lots of useful information for when the Helpline may not be available, and feature basic wildlife first aid and contact details for wildlife rehabilitation centres.

The Helpline is supported by a large network of volunteer wildlife rehabilitators, reptile removers and Animal Control Agents enabling the service to provide a wide range of assistance to concerned members of the public.



## How the 11,202 Helpline calls break down:

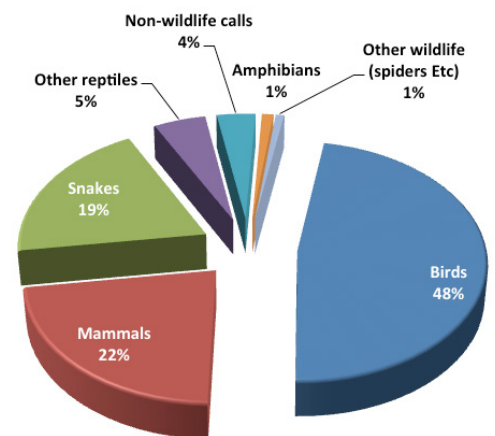


Photo courtesy Matt Swan



## Wildcare Helpline report 2014-15 continued

The Helpline also receives reports of suspected cane toad sightings. 82 calls were made to the Helpline for help in distinguishing these invasive pests from our friendly natives. More information on the [website](#).



*Cane toads*

We would like to say thanks to all of our Helpline advisers and our further network of dedicated volunteers across WA who provide the service voluntarily on behalf of the department.

We are always looking for new volunteer advisers for the Helpline. You need patience, a clear telephone voice and to enjoy talking to people. In return you'll get on the job training, ongoing support in a friendly office environment plus a warm feeling inside with the knowledge that you are helping to protect our native wildlife.

For more information email [Community.Involvement@dpaw.wa.gov.au](mailto:Community.Involvement@dpaw.wa.gov.au)

## Wildcare Helpline volunteer retires

On 31 July, the Wildcare Helpline bid a fond farewell to long-serving volunteer, Mary, after seven years of service.

Mary thanked her colleagues, including fellow helpline volunteers, wildlife officers and Community Involvement Unit staff, saying "I've had a wonderful time on the helpline, but the time has come for me to leave".

During Mary's seven years on the Helpline she answered over 2000 calls from members of the public and gave nearly 1300 hours of her own time.

The success of the helpline is down to the sum of all the individuals, each with their own style. Mary's warm, friendly and sometimes cheeky style made it look easy, even at the busiest times. She has a gentle phone manner but can also speak with authority, even when she wasn't sure what the answer was (This is the secret to being a great helpline adviser).

Mary was also a great mentor to other helpline advisers, enabling them to become confident Helpline advisers in their own right.

Mary leaves a big hole in Friday mornings' Helpline roster and she'll be missed by volunteers and staff – we wish you well Mary and thanks for your dedicated time!



*Mary with Wildlife Officers Rick and Karen*

**WILDCARE** helpline  
FOR SICK, INJURED OR ORPHANED NATIVE WILDLIFE

**(08) 9474 9055**



# Dirk Hartog Island clean-up



In September, volunteers from WA4WD Association, Track Care and the Shark Bay community converged on [Dirk Hartog Island](#) for a clean-up targeting the island's northern sites.

Base camp was at Withnell Point, while the rubbish was piled at Herald Bay for later removal. By the end of the week the pile measured 35m by 3m, totalling over 100m<sup>2</sup>.



The logistics of transporting people, supplies and rubbish between Denham and Dirk Hartog are significant, and this was reflected in the time the Denham team finally arrived with supplies on Monday afternoon. The sun was setting, but Angela calmly rose to the challenge of the late arrival of the food she was to prepare for dinner.

Rhian, Doug, Crash, Natalie and Geoff came from Denham with Parks and Wildlife staff Steve, Roger, Kieran and Susan. Waiting at Withnell Point were the 4WDers Angela (our sensational cook), Mark (cook's assistant), Trish, Malcolm, Tony, Keith, Gus, Malcolm, Bruce, Judith, Rick and Bon.



Over the next three days, teams cleaned up Sandy Point, Charlies Harbour, Mystery Beach, The Block, Urchin Point, Cape Inscription, Dampier's Landing and Louisa Bay.



Photos (top to bottom) Quoin Head before, Quoin Head after, Group pic Tony adj, Rubbish pile 35m x 3m



## Dirk Hartog Island clean-up continued

While most enjoyed whale watching during their work, Trish and Malcolm wrestled several kilometres of polypipe out of the bush between Sandy Point and Charlies Harbour. Back at camp, Angela cooked delicious three-course meals for dinner, and both her and Mark did an outstanding job looking after everyone.

Rubbish varied between sites, although toilet paper featured everywhere. At Cape Inscription there was a lot of broken glass and corrugated iron. Camping gear and ironing boards dominated around the huts at The Block and Urchin Point. Two old rubbish tips were decommissioned at Sandy Point, although a lot of pastoral rubbish remains. Quoin Head featured a double firepit used to burn rubbish, leaving a lot of broken glass.



Photos (above) Trish and Malcolm receiving 'The Golden Polypipe Award'

(Below) Trish and Malcolm's polypipe result

All agreed the amount of polypipe collected by Trish and Malcolm was an outstanding effort, so 'The Golden Polypipe Award' was presented to them on Thursday night. They are now known as Poly and Pipe.

Working with volunteers cleaning up Dirk Hartog Island is a fantastic experience. Everyone brings practical skills, enthusiasm, good humour, and works hard. Thank you to all of the volunteers who have participated in Dirk Hartog Island clean-ups since 2013, it has been a pleasure working with you and Dirk Hartog Island has benefitted enormously from your visits.

*by Susan Pedersen - World Heritage Interpretation Officer,  
Parks and Wildlife Shark Bay District*

[www.sharkbay.org](http://www.sharkbay.org)





# CampingMate

Packing made easy



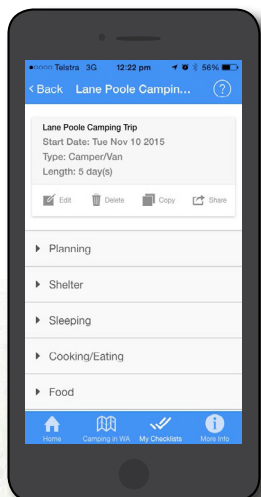
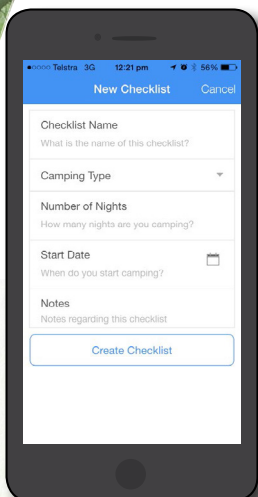
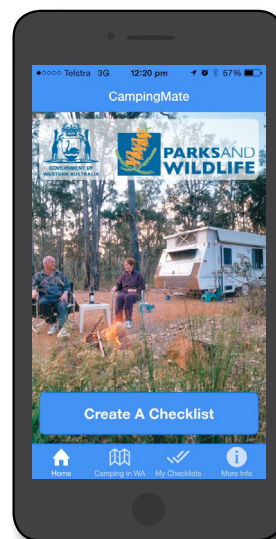
CampingMate is a new app from Parks and Wildlife Western Australia that lets you create and share camping checklists.



CampingMate lets you create tailored camping checklists that can be shared with your friends.



Whether you are camping in a tent, cycling or staying in a caravan, this app provides examples of checklists for each camping style. Every checklist has the appropriate items included to consider when packing.



Add or delete items from checklists to customise them to your liking. Copy your custom checklists to start new lists.



CampingMate is packed with information about camping in Western Australia, such as where to camp, when to camp, types of camping and staying safe. It also directs you to other sources of information to help make your camping adventure even better.

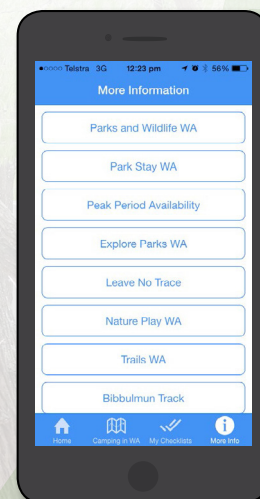
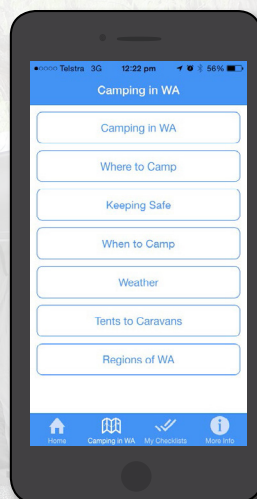
CampingMate is available for iOS and Android:

[Apple](#)

[Android](#)

For more information visit the [website](#)

Subscribe to the *Touring Western Australia* e-newsletter and stay up-to-date with the latest parks information, giveaways and discounts at [parks.dpaw.wa.gov.au/connect](http://parks.dpaw.wa.gov.au/connect)



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Department of Parks and Wildlife  
Department of Regional Development





# Campground host vacancies

We currently have volunteer Campground Host vacancies for the following at [Cape Le Grand National Park](#):



## Lucky Bay camp site:

- November 2015
- January 2016
- April 2016
- May 2016
- June 2016

## Cape Le Grand Beach camp site:

- December 2015
- June 2016



If you are interested in these vacancies please contact Cameron Hennessy, senior ranger, Cape Le Grand National Park email: [Cameron.Hennessy@dpaw.wa.gov.au](mailto:Cameron.Hennessy@dpaw.wa.gov.au) or phone 9075 9072

There are also volunteer host vacancies for the West Kimberley in 2016:

- [Windjana](#) has vacancies in July, August and September 2016,
- [Geikie Gorge](#) has vacancies in September 2016,
- [Silent Grove](#) has vacancies in May 2016.



For West Kimberley host vacancies please contact Dave Woods, senior operations officer email: [David.Woods@dpaw.wa.gov.au](mailto:David.Woods@dpaw.wa.gov.au) or phone 9195 5500

**Please note:** Campground host vacancies are only available to those volunteers currently registered as Parks and Wildlife campground hosts that have completed the necessary training and information workshops.

More information on campground hosting can be found on the [website](#)

Photos (top to bottom)

Campground Host © S&K Bryant, Campers Sunset © M&M Dawson, Windjana Gorge © T&V Thompson, Lucky Bay-Cape Le Grand



# Volunteers required

## Aquatic invertebrate curation For the Science and Conservation Division - Wetlands Conservation

Parks and Wildlife is seeking individuals to assist with the preservation of aquatic fauna specimens for long-term storage.

**Want to discover the wonderful world of wetlands?**

**Do you enjoy laboratory/microscope work?**

No prior wetlands experience necessary, although an interest in wetlands/invertebrates would be beneficial and the use of a microscope will be required. On the job training is provided for this ongoing project.



Working at the Keiran McNamara Conservation Science Centre, Kensington, you will be required for around 3 hours a week, with shifts from either 9am -12pm or 1pm to 4pm

Please register your interest with Kirsty Quinlan via email: [kirsty.quinlan@dpaw.wa.gov.au](mailto:kirsty.quinlan@dpaw.wa.gov.au) or phone: 9219 9445 by Friday 27 November 2015.

*The Community Involvement Unit provides community members within WA with opportunities to support, be involved in, and contribute to, the work of the Department of Parks and Wildlife.*

*The unit 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. All photos credited to Parks and Wildlife unless otherwise stated.*

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