



Welcome to the autumn 2016 volunteer newsletter. The temperature is dropping but we know that won't stop you from venturing out to get involved in one of the department's 200+ volunteer projects. Not all of our projects are outdoors though, so if you fancy a move in from the cold, check out www.dpaw.wa.gov.au/get-involved for information on other projects.

This year, May 9 to 15 is **National Volunteer Week**, the annual celebration to acknowledge the generous contribution of volunteers across the country. Did you know that last year the Department of Parks and Wildlife had more than 4,000 active volunteers who contributed more than 600,000 hours – a fantastic effort which means that the department can achieve so much more – **THANK YOU!**



Volunteer and Community Unit



Above: Volunteer campground hosts.

April 2016

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Department of Parks and Wildlife



Campground host vacancies

South Coast Region

There are vacancies for volunteers in the Albany District during school holidays (23 September to 10 October).

Porongurup National Park

Waychinicup National Park

Contact Ingrid Hunt – ingrid.hunt@dpaw.wa.gov.au or ph: (08) 9842 4500

South West Region

There are vacancies in the Wellington District over the next few months.

Honeymoon Pool

Potters Gorge

Contact Jamie Gault – jamie.gault@dpaw.wa.gov.au or ph: (08) 9735 1988

Goldfields Region

Volunteers are required in the Goldfields Region.

Goongarrie – April, plus one week in June

Lake Mason – May and June

The new Credo campground – May and June

Contact David Pickles – david.pickles@dpaw.wa.gov.au or ph: (08) 9080 5537

Swan Region

Yalgorup National Park requires hosts for June and July.

Contact Ben Byrne – ben.byrne@dpaw.wa.gov.au or ph: (08) 9303 7738

Perth Hills Discovery Centre requires campground hosts for June and August.

Contact Shaun New – shaun.new@dpaw.wa.gov.au or ph: (08) 9295 2244

Midwest Region:

Mt Augustus National Park requires hosts in June.

Contact Gary Hearle – gary.hearle@dpaw.wa.gov.au or ph: (08) 9941 3754

Pilbara Region:

Stargazers campground at Millstream Chichester National Park requires hosts in May.

Contact Dale Fitzgerald – dale.fitzgerald@dpaw.wa.gov.au or ph: (08) 9184 5144

Dales campground in Karijini National Park has vacancies for one couple in July, August and September, and two couples in October.

Contact Steve Berris – steve.berris@dpaw.wa.gov.au or ph: (08) 9189 8147

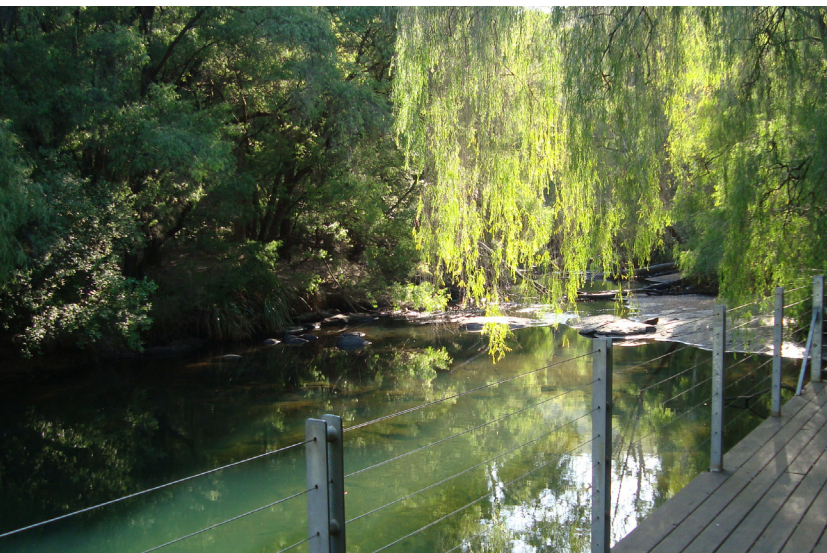
Kimberley Region:

Hosts are required during July at **Windjana Gorge campground** in the West Kimberley.

Contact Dave Woods – david.woods@dpaw.wa.gov.au or ph: (08) 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. If you would like to become a host or find out more please visit the website.

Left: Honeymoon Pool. Below: Bluff Knoll. Photo – Harry De Vries



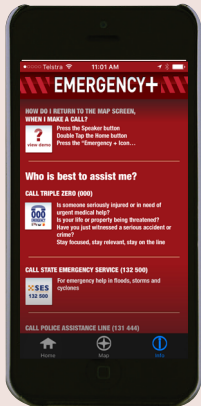


Smartphone app for emergencies

Australia's emergency services and their Government and industry partners have developed an app.

The Emergency + app allows callers to pinpoint their location via their smartphone's GPS and verbally provide emergency operators with these details.

The app is free of charge and available for download from iTunes, Google Play and Windows stores.



You should not rely on any smartphone app as your only way of requesting emergency assistance. In an emergency it is always best to call Triple Zero (000) direct.



Left: A volunteer monitors a turtle at Ningaloo. Photo – Adam Thompson Right: A volunteer watches a nest.

World Turtle Day - 23 May 2016

World Turtle Day, to be held on 23 May, is an important day to encourage action towards international turtle conservation efforts.

In Western Australia we are lucky enough to have six of the world's seven species of marine turtles within our waters: green, loggerhead, hawksbill, flatback, leatherback and olive ridley turtles.

In the Ningaloo area the Department of Parks and Wildlife has been collaborating with the local Cape Conservation Group since 2001 as part of the Ningaloo Turtle Program to gather important data on local turtle populations. Each season between November and March, volunteers gather to monitor turtle activity, monitor the presence of threats such as feral animals, and rescue stranded turtles where necessary.

You can help by joining the Ningaloo Turtle Program for the 2016–17 season! Check out this video made by one of last season's volunteers, Adam Thompson, to see what the program is all about: vimeo.com/161289007.

You can also visit the website at www.ningalooturtles.org.au for information on the program and other turtle-related material. Volunteer positions will be advertised on the website around July 2016.

For any enquiries or to express your interest in the program please contact Keely Markovina at ningalooturtles@dpaw.wa.gov.au.

Cane Toad update

What impact do cane toads have on our native species?

Cane toads are toxic throughout their life cycle. The main impact they have on native species is through poisoning when eaten. All species that naturally prey on frogs are at risk, including goannas, northern quolls, blue-tongue lizards, king brown snakes and freshwater crocodiles.

The arrival of cane toads in a new location can also impact on native frog species through misidentification and subsequent euthanasia. While community efforts to combat cane toads are to be applauded, any groups or individuals wishing to go toad-busting are recommended to seek advice from Parks and Wildlife for identification, euthanasia and disposal training.

What is being done about toads?

Parks and Wildlife's Cane Toad Initiative for Western Australia works to minimise the impact of toads on native species, while increasing understanding of toads and supporting research into reducing the breeding success of toads.

Taste aversion trials are currently being conducted with Kimberley goannas and quolls. This innovative technique aims to teach native predators to avoid toads by introducing them to toad meat containing only sufficient toxin to induce nausea, after which the predators learn to avoid adult cane toads.

Projects are also being conducted to refine pheromone-based tadpole trapping techniques and to identify areas that are ahead of the cane toad front that are likely to be significantly impacted by toads.

Where are the toads now?

At the start of the 2015 wet season, cane toads were approximately 100km west of Halls Creek. They are moving westward at approximately 50km per year, although this can vary slightly depending on rainfall. 'Hitchhiker' cane toads are found from time to time in locations ahead of the cane toad frontline. These are toads that have stowed away in freight, vehicles and equipment. Toads have also been known to be transported in mud encrusted on a vehicle's undercarriage. Anyone travelling



from east to west across the Kimberley is reminded to 'check their load for a toad'.

What should I do if I find a toad?

If you are west of Halls Creek or Ellenbrae, isolate the toad in a bucket or plastic bag. Take a photograph of the animal's front, side and back, then send the photo to 0400 693 807 or email canetoads@dpaw.wa.gov.au. Don't kill it, as any sightings west of the toad frontline must be confirmed by a Parks and Wildlife officer prior to euthanasia.

If you are in an area known to be inhabited by toads (east of Halls Creek and Ellenbrae), see below for information regarding identification and appropriate methods of euthanasia.

How do we know it is a toad?

Many of our native Kimberley frogs look remarkably similar to toads. Adult and juvenile toads can be identified by the following three features:

Tadpoles and metamorph toads (toads that have just transformed from tadpoles) are more difficult to distinguish from native frogs. Please seek further advice from Parks and Wildlife if you believe you may have found any potential tadpoles or metamorphs and are west of the cane toad frontline.

How should we euthanise toads?

Once your animal is confirmed as a toad by a Parks and Wildlife officer, you will receive advice regarding euthanasia. The

most commonly recommended method is cooling, followed by freezing. This involves placing the toad in a container in a fridge for four hours, then in a freezer overnight. This method is approved as it causes minimal suffering and does not require any specialist equipment or training. Individuals wishing to employ alternate methods of euthanasia are requested to contact Parks and Wildlife for further advice.

Where can I find out more?

Email: canetoads@dpaw.wa.gov.au

Phone: Kununurra Parks and Wildlife on (08) 9168 4200 and ask for the cane toad team

Look online: dpaw.wa.gov.au/canetoads

Download: Cane Toad app from the Apple iTunes Store

Identification: Send pictures to 0400 693 807 or email: canetoads@dpaw.wa.gov.au

Posters, brochures, magnets, stickers and teacher resources are available on request.





River Guardians news



Be a Dolphin Watch volunteer

Would you like to monitor dolphins in the Swan River and contribute to scientific research?

Join us in June and learn everything you ever wanted to know about the Indo-Pacific bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops aduncus*) from the experts and learn how to identify individual dolphins with your free copy of FinBook.

DOLPHIN WATCH TRAINING

Date: 1 June 2016 Time: 6 - 8.30pm.
Light refreshments will be provided from 6pm

Venue: Scitech, City West Centre, Corner
Railway Street and Sutherland Street, West Perth

If you are interested in attending please register at guardians@dpaw.wa.gov.au.

A dolphin leaps in the Swan River. Photo – Sue Harper



Monitoring shorebirds

The River Guardians team is working with BirdLife Australia to give you an opportunity to identify and monitor shorebirds.

The Shorebird 2020 program is raising awareness of how incredible shorebirds are, and actively engaging the community to gather information to conserve shorebirds.

We will be delivering a workshop to train volunteers on Saturday 14 May with a short fieldwork component on Sunday 15 May.

SHOREBIRDS 2020

Date: Saturday 14 May and Sunday 15 May

Time: Saturday 9am – 4pm. Lunch, morning and afternoon tea is included

Sunday 9am -12pm. Morning tea is included

Venue: Herdsman Lake Wildlife Centre, Selby Street, Churchlands

If you are interested in attending please register at guardians@dpaw.wa.gov.au.



Above: A hooded plover.

Below: Oystercatcher family in South Perth. Photo – Gary Tate



#didyouknow in their lifetime, shorebirds travel over 700,000km which is equivalent to travelling to the moon and back!



'Healthy Wildlife Healthy Lives' - A One Health Project



Above: Quenda. Photo – Murdoch University

Murdoch University is working with the Eastern Metropolitan Regional Council on the **'Healthy Wildlife Healthy Lives' – A One Health Project**, funded by Lotterywest. 'One Health' is a worldwide initiative that recognises that the health of humans, animals and the environment are all directly linked, and promotes the health and wellness of all species.

The project aims to educate the public about 'One Health' focusing on people's contact with wildlife in urban areas. Information will be developed on how people and domestic animals spread diseases to wildlife. The project will aim to educate people on how to avoid harm to wildlife, such as through feeding wildlife with incorrect food or releasing non-native fish into rivers and streams. This will help communities to interact positively with

wildlife and protect and conserve the environment for the benefit of both wildlife and people.

Data on the extent of disease spread to wildlife from people and domestic animals collected during the project will help to improve the existing level of knowledge about this problem. This will assist in providing targeted education and to measure the success of the project.

The 'Healthy Wildlife Healthy Lives' project is taking place initially in Perth's Eastern Region. Once completed, it is planned to extend the community education model to areas outside the Eastern Region. As a result, the project will boost community health and quality of life via the proven benefits associated with contact with nature.

For more information, contact Catherine Nind (08) 9424 2212 or catherine.nind@emrc.org.au

Wildlife rehabilitation courses 2016

The Basic Course in Wildlife Rehabilitation, facilitated by the Department of Parks and Wildlife, is designed for anyone in the community interested in the rehabilitation of sick, injured or abandoned native wildlife.

Information is presented by some of Western Australia's most experienced wildlife rehabilitators. They will share their expertise in their specialist fields - marsupials (kangaroos and possums), reptiles and birds, including raptors.

The course also caters for those interested in volunteering at an

established wildlife rehabilitation centre and is a prerequisite for those volunteers who would like to become a Department of Parks and Wildlife registered wildlife rehabilitator.

Metropolitan courses are conducted at the Keiran McNamara Conservation Science Centre in Kensington, over two days from 9am - 4pm.

Included in the course fee is:

- two online modules (to be completed prior to attending)
- two days of face-to-face training

- a morning tea provided both days
- a comprehensive course manual provided on a USB flash-drive
- A certificate of attendance (online modules must be completed)

Remaining 2016 metropolitan courses are scheduled for 18 –19 June and 10 –11 September.

For more information and to register please visit the [website](#).

WILDCARE helpline
FOR SICK, INJURED OR ORPHANED NATIVE WILDLIFE
(08) 9474 9055

Call for Munda Bididi maintenance volunteers

The Munda Bididi Trail Foundation recruits volunteers and manages the Volunteer Trail Maintenance Program as a way of providing support for the management and maintenance of the trail.



You can assist by becoming a maintenance volunteer and be proud of your own little patch of the trail.

The Munda Bididi is a 1000km trail built through an undeveloped natural corridor, divided into 108 maintenance sections, varying in length from 7km to 20km. Volunteers adopt a section of the trail and are trained to look after it. Their role is essential in ensuring that the trail remains well-kept and well-loved.

No previous experience is necessary and all registered volunteers are welcome. Find out more about the workshop and becoming a volunteer at www.mundabiddi.org.au

Still undecided? You can read about what it's like to be a maintenance volunteer at www.mundabiddi.org.au/news/latest/volunteer-report/

If you would like to join the team please email volunteer coordinator Leanne Robb at vec@mundabiddi.org.au or phone (08) 6336 9699.



Bushcare's Major Day Out



Bushcare's Major Day Out is a national day of community events designed to encourage us all to take part in the restoration and maintenance of our remaining bushland.

In 2016 the main date will be Sunday 11 September. The timing for Bushcare's Major Day Out is flexible, so individual groups may choose slightly different dates.

Bushcare's Major Day Out is a day specifically designed to give you the opportunity to find out what is being done and what can be done in your community. It is a fun day where people work alongside each other and learn from experts and experienced volunteers. There are a range of activities depending on the location, such as walks, seedling planting, weed removal, photography workshops, native plant identification and morning teas.

There are plenty of activities happening in Western Australia. To find out the location of a Bushcare's Major Day Out project near you, check their website at www.bushcaresmajordayout.org.

The Volunteer and Community 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.

Volunteer and Community Unit

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