



## Volunteering for Parks and Wildlife

by Barbara and Kelvin Cooper



As we are into our fourth year as volunteers for Parks and Wildlife, now seems a good time to reflect on the experiences we have had.

During this time we have been involved with the **Nearer to Nature program** and as **campground hosts**. These roles, despite being quite different on the surface, do require similar abilities and interests. Both involve our passion for the environment and educating the next generation on the importance of, and respect for, Western Australia's natural environment.

The Nearer to Nature provides fun, educational experiences for children and adults through its school holiday activities or tailor-made group bookings. As volunteers, our responsibilities include assisting guides with setting up equipment, meeting and greeting participants and assisting guides with the delivery of the program, in particular keeping the group under control!

By participating in these activities the children begin to recognise the pleasure and fun of being in natural surroundings and are hopefully inspired to protect our natural heritage for the future. Parents have been seen to join in with their children's activities with equal enthusiasm.

Working with staff and other volunteers in Nearer to Nature is very rewarding as we share the same

commitment and enthusiasm for our unique and wonderful environment.

Through the Campground Host program we are volunteer ambassadors for **WA's wonderful national parks**. Our main aim is to ensure visitors have a safe, satisfying and enjoyable visit. While our duties may vary from park to park, at each location we maintain the camping facilities and interact with the public, which can range from collecting camping fees and providing information on local walk trails, to simply having a cuppa and chat with the visitors.

The Campground Host program also provides us with opportunities to enhance our skills by joining in some of the research being undertaken by Parks and Wildlife staff. We have also taken guests on nocturnal bush walks to see some of our local wildlife. This is a new experience for many people, which enhances their visits to our parks and nature reserves.

As Parks and Wildlife volunteers it is rewarding to be able to give something back by sharing our information and skills with others. We thoroughly enjoy and take pride in our role as volunteers and thank all staff involved for their support and sharing of their knowledge.

## August 2016

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Department of Parks and Wildlife





## Western Shield Camera Watch

Boxing kangaroos, a woylie carrying its nesting material, or a possum giving her young offspring a ride on her back. These are just some of the wonderful images you might see on Parks and Wildlife's newest citizen science webpage, [Western Shield Camera Watch](#). The images are collected from 90 infrared cameras set in the northern jarrah forest of Western Australia.

The cameras record thousands of photos each year but the job of classifying them has become too large for the department alone to handle. Help us log how many woylies, chuditch and other wonderful native wildlife live in the jarrah forest and while doing so, mark how many feral cats and foxes you see.

By joining in you can help Parks and Wildlife determine the success of the *Western Shield* wildlife recovery program, which aims to protect native species across 3.8 million hectares of the State. The information can then be used to adapt management to the changing needs of our wildlife.

The *Western Shield* Camera Watch website has more than 20,000 images to classify. It provides a step-by-step guide to correctly identifying animals by their shape, size, colour and markings.

Participants don't need scientific knowledge, simply a keen eye and a willingness to learn.

If you want to get involved or are seeking more information visit: [Western Shield Camera Watch](#).

Top: Possums.

Right: Woylie.

Far right: Kangaroos displaying aggression

Photos – Sensor camera





# Getting full bottle on invertebrates

by Kirsty Quinlan

In January this year a small group of enthusiastic individuals embarked on a new volunteer project offered by Parks and Wildlife, to curate aquatic fauna specimens for the Wetlands Conservation Program. The new project has been an instant hit, with volunteers fascinated by what they are discovering.

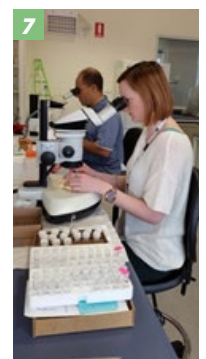
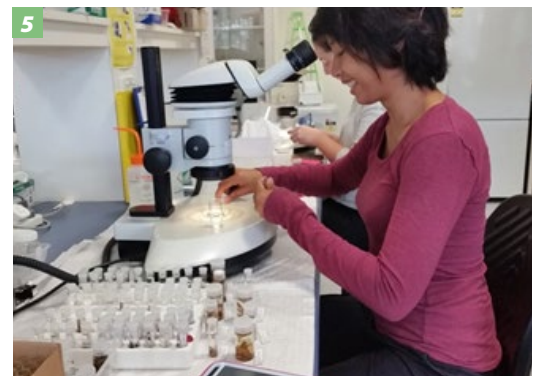
For more than 20 years, the program has collected aquatic fauna specimens from all over Western Australia by way of its biodiversity survey work and long-term monitoring projects. All of this material has historically been stored in plastic vials, but now most of these old vials are severely degraded and the highly valuable specimens inside are starting to deteriorate. This curation project was developed with the aim of engaging volunteers to assist with the large task of transferring all of the existing material to glass. This means that the collection will be available for scientific purposes, such as species descriptions and comparisons with new specimens, long into the future.

Volunteers work in the laboratory to move specimens from the degraded plastic vials into newly labelled glass storage vials. All of the material from each complete survey/project is placed together in a larger glass jar and then labelled for long-term storage. Volunteers get the chance to develop new skills as well as having the unique opportunity to view aquatic fauna from across the State, from a wide range of groups including insects, mites, snails, worms and crustaceans.

In the first six months, this outstanding group has contributed 400 hours in the laboratory, and has preserved over 2,000 vials. The group is diverse and includes young students starting careers as well as those just wanting to make a contribution to wetland science. While there is still a long way to go for the project, it is certainly off to a fantastic start, and having continued support will ensure that this valuable collection will be preserved well into the future.

This work could not be achieved without volunteers, so I thank this wonderful group of individuals who each week, bring enthusiasm, curiosity, dedication and a smile to our laboratory.

If you would also like to be involved in this ongoing curation project and notified of future opportunities, 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.



Above right: **1** Louise Ridgeway. **2** Before – specimens in plastic vials. **3** After – specimens in glass vials. **4 – 7** Volunteers curating specimens. Photos – Kirsty Quinlan





## Help protect our river foreshore vegetation



Riverfront residents and visitors are being asked to report tree vandalism in the Swan Canning Riverpark.

Trees and riparian vegetation along Perth's Swan Canning Riverpark foreshores have become targets for vegetation damage. Native trees are being killed around the Riverpark usually to try and enhance water views or private river access.

Foreshore trees are valuable as they:

- help cool our river recreational areas by 3 - 5°C
- reduce erosion and help stabilise foreshores
- enhance liveability by creating natural wind breaks along the river foreshore
- filter airborne particle pollution such as car fumes
- provide vital habitat for insects, birds and other native wildlife and
- improve water quality by slowing and filtering runoff before it enters drains and the rivers.

Trees are often vandalised after dark, so unless people hear sawing or chainsaws, detection of illegal activity – such as poisoning – may not be apparent until after a few days, or even weeks.

Examples of vegetation damage include:

- poisoning
- mowing
- pruning
- removal
- ringbarking.

Motivation for deliberate foreshore tree damage is often related to maintaining or gaining a 'view'. Under WA legislation landowners do not have a right to views. Breaches of this regulation can result in a maximum penalty of \$5,000 per offence.

To report foreshore vegetation damage contact **Department of Parks and Wildlife, Swan Region Riverpark Unit (08) 9278 0981 Mon-Fri 8am-5pm or 0419 192 845** after hours.

To learn more about protecting your river foreshores and vegetation visit [www.riverguardians.com](http://www.riverguardians.com)



*Above left: Red tail cockatoos. Photo – Barbara Knot*

*Above right: Riverpark officer with vandalised trees in the Swan Canning Riverpark. Photo – Parks and Wildlife*

*Above: Native peppermint trees help reduce erosion and stabilise foreshores. Photo – Mark Thornley/Parks and Wildlife*





## *Bush Rangers*: learning the art of volunteering



The department's *Bush Rangers* program now operates in 65 secondary schools around the State, with each cadet unit doing between 90–1000 hours on volunteer projects a year.

*Bush Rangers* program coordinator Richard Olive said volunteering was a big part of the environmental youth program.

“Providing opportunities to experience and understand our natural environment is key to *Bush Rangers*; but even more important is to provide cadets with opportunities to ‘give back’ by taking part in volunteer projects,” he said.

“Projects take many forms, such as revegetation on reserves or with private landowners, dune rehabilitation, wildlife monitoring (such as turtles and malleefowl), litter pick-ups, ANZAC ceremonies in local communities, paper collection, beach clean-ups, greening of school grounds, seed collection and even helping in an Indigenous aged care facility in Broome.”

Cadet units work with a range of partners including Parks and Wildlife, Regional Natural Resource Management Councils, local ‘Friends of’ groups, local government, Keep Australia Beautiful Council, private landholders and even a Vietnam Veterans group.

The primary school cadets program, *Bush Rangers*, also enables students to tackle conservation-focused volunteer projects.

Kalbarri DHS *Bush Rangers* Unit Leader Helen Waite described the program as a fantastic way to learn how to give back to your community at a young age and learn the art of volunteering.

“We always see cadets grow and tackle new issues and build confidence.” she said.

*Above: 1 One Arm Point helping Bardi Jawa Rangers with animal trapping 2 Albany Education Support Centre weeding at Yakamia Creek 3 Rossmoyne SHS helping remove old board walks at Shark Bay 4 Duncraig SHS dune planting at Grey. Photos – Richard Olive*



# Ningaloo Turtle Program

## Join the team



### As a part of the Ningaloo Turtle Program you will:

- Learn about and interact with marine turtles
- Contribute to a valuable conservation program
- Help protect these threatened species
- Meet new people
- Develop your conservation skills

### Positions available

- 3 team leader internship positions (8 weeks)
- 1 communications and multimedia internship position (8 weeks)
- 12 volunteer positions (5 weeks)
- Local volunteers (casual)

### The Ningaloo Turtle Program includes:

- Training on how to monitor turtles
- Hands-on turtle monitoring, including remote camping
- Turtle rescues
- Regular social activities and events

### Contact

Ningaloo Turtle Program Coordinator

Phone: (08) 9947 8000

Email: [ningalooturtles@dpaw.wa.gov.au](mailto:ningalooturtles@dpaw.wa.gov.au)

Website: [www.ningalooturtles.org.au](http://www.ningalooturtles.org.au)



Make a difference and be a part of this important program.



Department of  
Parks and Wildlife



PARKS  
FOR  
PEOPLE





## 2017 LANDSCOPE calendar now available

The beautiful 2017 calendar showcases WA's stunning coastal and marine areas including the picturesque white sand and turquoise waters of the pristine Cape Le Grand beaches, as shown on the cover.

Plus with every calendar purchased there's the chance to WIN a wonderful wilderness camping prize in WA's magnificent south-west, where everything is set-up and just waiting for you to arrive (details inside the calendar).

Thanks to customer feedback we have brought back spiral binding and larger box sizes for more room to write your own special event information.

It also comes with a lightweight envelope for posting or gift giving (weighs under 250gms with envelope for cost effective international postage). Western Australian school and public holiday dates are also included.

Volunteer discount applies when purchased from Parks and Wildlife – RRP \$14.95, **Volunteer price \$11.95.**

A perfect gift for family and friends – and it will last all year!

Available from Parks and Wildlife by phone: (08) 9219 9070 or (08) 9219 9071, email: [customer.service@dpaw.wa.gov.au](mailto:customer.service@dpaw.wa.gov.au) or online: [shop.dpaw.wa.gov.au](http://shop.dpaw.wa.gov.au). The calendar is also available for \$14.95 from newsagents, visitor centres and good bookstores across the State.



### River Guardians events

#### BE A DOLPHIN WATCH VOLUNTEER

Would you like to learn about dolphins and contribute to scientific research?



Join us in October and learn everything you ever wanted to know about the bottlenose dolphins which live in the Swan Canning Riverpark. You will hear from scientists from Parks and Wildlife, Curtin and Murdoch universities.

**Date:** Wednesday 12 October  
**Time:** 6 - 8.30pm - light refreshments will be provided  
**Venue:** Scitech, Corner Railway Street and Sutherland Street, West Perth  
**RSVP:** There is limited seating so please email [guardians@dpaw.wa.gov.au](mailto:guardians@dpaw.wa.gov.au)

#### COMMUNITY EXPO – WIRED FOR SCIENCE FOR SCIENCE WEEK

Get in touch with science and sustainability!!

Wired for Science is the theme of an exciting, innovative one-day community expo to be held on the banks of the Canning River.

The theme aims to capture the enthusiasm of the general public about the importance of physical, chemical, earth and biological sciences and related technologies.

Investigate the technology and connections in science with hands on activities, workshops, presentations and displays for the whole community!

Come and say hi to the River Guardians Team!

**Date:** Sunday 21 August  
**Time:** 10am - 3pm  
**Location:** Canning River Eco Education Centre,  
Cnr Kent Street and Queens Park Road Wilson  
**Contact:** 9461 7160

Free entry, everyone welcome.



## New campground now open at Dryandra Woodland



One of Western Australia's best locations for viewing wildlife is now available to campers with the opening of the **Gnaala Mia Campground** in **Dryandra Woodland**, near Williams. There are 35 campsites, BBQ shelter, new toilets and a fireplace and table at each site.

Gnaala Mia has been developed as part of the *Parks for People* caravan and camping initiative.

Camping is also available at the **Congelin campground**, which offers eight caravan bays and a group camping area. Facilities available include toilets, gas BBQs and open ring fire pits.

Both campgrounds are close to the **Barna Mia sanctuary** where you can take a guided nocturnal tour in a tranquil

setting that has become home for some of Western Australia's threatened native animals. Using specially placed lights, you can see native animals such as bilby, woylie, wurrup, quenda and boodie. The tour allows you to experience the wonders of the woodland and discover the range of rare native animals which venture out after dark.

Dryandra Woodland now also features new walking, cycling and driving trails where visitors can see endangered species such as numbats, woylies and tammar wallabies in the wild. For more information and booking information visit the **ParkStay website**.

*Top left: Camp site at Gnaala Mia.  
Photo – Sally Bostwick/Parks and Wildlife*

*Top right: Bilby. Photo – Gerald Lorenz*

*Right: The new camp ground facilities at Gnaala Mia. Photo – Sally Bostwick/Parks and Wildlife*



The Volunteers 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.

### **Volunteers and Community Unit**

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Locked Bag 104  
Bentley Delivery Centre WA 6983

Ph: (08) 9334 0279 Fax: (08) 9334 0221  
Please note new email address: [community@dpaw.wa.gov.au](mailto:community@dpaw.wa.gov.au)  
**[dpaw.wa.gov.au](http://dpaw.wa.gov.au)**

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