

## A message from Interim Director General Mark Webb

**I would like to extend a warm welcome to all Parks and Wildlife Service volunteers to the new Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions.**

The new department brings together the functions, staff and volunteers of the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority, Rottneet Island Authority, Zoological Parks Authority and the former Department of Parks and Wildlife.

It has a strong emphasis on improving Western Australia's natural attractions as key tourism assets, and creating opportunities for private sector investment and partnerships, while conserving environmental values. It consolidates conservation science to build and share knowledge of the State's biodiversity.

As volunteers, you will continue to play a valuable role in helping us to achieve our objectives. Thanks for your ongoing contribution to the conservation of Western Australia's natural assets.

For more information, please visit [dbca.wa.gov.au](http://dbca.wa.gov.au)



DBCA Interim Director General Mark Webb

## Volunteers needed

**Eyre Bird Observatory is seeking expressions of interest from volunteer couples to take on the role of caretakers at the facility in 2018. The tenure is for the three months from May to July. Vacancies are also available in 2019.**



Volunteers in the Eyre Bird Observatory vegetable garden. Photo – Eyre Bird Observatory

The bird observatory - Australia's first - was established in 1977 by Birds Australia and is a not-for-profit research, education and nature-based facility.

Duties include public relations, weather reporting to the Bureau of Meteorology, carrying out bird surveys, cooking for overnight guests, cleaning, office duties and general maintenance.

Being bird enthusiasts will be a bonus and your accommodation and food will be provided for the duration of your volunteering stay. Eyre Bird Observatory is situated in a wilderness environment in [Nuytsland Nature Reserve](#) east of Esperance, on the Great Australian Bight. No dogs or other pets are permitted.

If you would like to volunteer for this unique program, contact: [eyre@birdlife.org.au](mailto:eyre@birdlife.org.au) or see the [website](#).



Department of Biodiversity,  
Conservation and Attractions



### August 2017

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# A week of woylie wonder

By Tanya Marwood

**In 2010, a 425ha predator-proof enclosure was established at Perup Forest Ecology Centre, east of Manjimup, by the former Department of Environment and Conservation (now Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions) to protect a population of critically endangered woylies from foxes and feral cats.**

Woylies – small wallaby-like marsupials - were introduced to the fenced enclosure after all the kangaroos and chuditch had been removed, to stop over-grazing and predation.

Earlier this year, DBCA needed help at relatively short notice to monitor the woylies and other animals at Perup, so a group of more than 20 volunteers was assembled.

The first task was to put out traps, after which all of us were briefed about the campaign and its objectives.

The following morning the real work began, getting up and away by 6am to clear the traps within the time required by the department’s Animal Ethics Committee. This first day was the most challenging as we got used to the procedure for walking the grid and processing the animals before releasing them and resetting traps. We were usually done by 9am and then headed back for morning tea and other activities.

Volunteers all helped with preparing meals and cleaning the kitchen during the week, and we also helped clean the facility and the trapping equipment on completion. The centre is literally off-grid, with no mains power or water - it’s all generated and supplied onsite.

We were offered the opportunity to participate in activities in the afternoons and evenings, such as radio-tracking ringtail possums, checking phascogale nest boxes, surveying for black cockatoos and their feeding evidence, and spotlighting after dinner outside the enclosure (during which we saw brushtailed phascogale, tawny frogmouths, chuditch, brushtail possums, woylies, western brush wallabies and more).

Some went looking for numbats in nearby forest blocks, with moderate success, to the delight of all. Others spent some hours during the afternoon entering data so we could tell which animals had been trapped previously and could therefore be released straight away if they found themselves tempted again by the peanut butter-rolled oats-and-sardine mix that makes up the ‘universal bait’. Needless to say, neither porridge nor peanut butter were supplied or desired by volunteers during the week!

Overall, the experience was one of purposeful work, camaraderie and enjoyment of the natural surroundings – see you next year.



*Releasing animals trapped overnight.*



*Volunteers radio tracking.*



*Volunteers and staff collected data on species caught in traps  
Photos – Tanya Marwood*





*Dolphins in the Swan River. Photo – Trudy Klessens.*



*A beach nesting bird. Photo – Gary Tate.*

## Beach nesting bird volunteer information evening

**River Guardians is calling for volunteers who are able to contribute two to three hours per week on a rotating roster.**

The project involves monitoring human disturbances near beach nesting birds, most likely at Point Walter in Bicton.

Volunteers will be provided with the equipment required, such as monitoring forms and binoculars.

If you are interested in volunteering and would like to know more, we will be hosting a beach nesting birds volunteer information evening.

At the event, we will answer all of your questions and, if you think this sounds like a great opportunity, you will be able to register as a volunteer on the night.

**Date: Wednesday 13 September 2017**

**Time: 6 – 7.30pm**

**Venue: Piney Lakes Eco Education Centre, corner Leach Highway and Murdoch Drive, Winthrop.**

**[REGISTER Here](#)**

## Download the Wildcare helpline app

The Wildcare Helpline app provides a service for the public who find sick or injured native wildlife in Western Australia and are seeking advice on what to do and where to find care for the animal.

The app is designed as an additional resource for the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions' Wildcare Helpline, a telephone referral service operated by volunteers based at our Kensington headquarters.

Within the app you will find information about what to do if you find native animals including birds, snakes and mammals. You will also find links and phone numbers to assist in dealing with cane toads, stranded whales and dolphins, and becoming a volunteer.

Using the 'Find Help' section, the app will be able to put you in touch with a list of the nearest wildcare helpers the Department works with, and find nearby vets using your device's map program wherever you are in Western Australia.

The app is free and available now on [Android](#) and [iOS](#)



## Campground host vacancies – August 2017



*Above: Kim and Greg Woolley*

The following campground host vacancies are available in the coming months. Please note that only volunteers currently registered as campground hosts can apply for these roles. For more information on becoming a volunteer campground host, visit the website. For more information about the sites below, visit <https://exploreparks.dbca.wa.gov.au>

### Swan Region

#### Yalgorup National Park

November and December

Ranger Ben Byrne (08) 9303 7738

email: [Ben.Byrne@dbca.wa.gov.au](mailto:Ben.Byrne@dbca.wa.gov.au)

#### Yanchep National Park

7 to 25 August

(08) 9303 7772

[bookingsynp@dbca.wa.gov.au](mailto:bookingsynp@dbca.wa.gov.au)

### Goldfields Region

#### Credo

November and December

#### Lorna Glen

November and December

Administration assistant Jani Pieterse (08) 9080 5555

email: [Jani.Pieterse@dbca.wa.gov.au](mailto:Jani.Pieterse@dbca.wa.gov.au)

### Warren Region

#### Shannon, Drafty's, Big Brook, and Green's Island

December to May 2018.

Ranger Tracey Robins (08) 9776 1207

email: [Tracey.Robins@dbca.wa.gov.au](mailto:Tracey.Robins@dbca.wa.gov.au)

### South Coast Region

#### Cape Arid National Park

February and April 2018

#### Thomas River

December

Senior ranger Johlene Shalders (0427) 436 831

email: [johlene.shalders@dbca.wa.gov.au](mailto:johlene.shalders@dbca.wa.gov.au)

#### Lucky Bay in Cape Le Grand National Park

October to January 2018, May 2018

Cape Le Grand Beach May 2018

Senior ranger Cameron Hennessy (08) 9075 9072

email: [cameron.hennessy@dbca.wa.gov.au](mailto:cameron.hennessy@dbca.wa.gov.au)

#### Two Peoples Bay Nature Reserve

23 September to 8 October, min two weeks

Ranger Ingrid Hunt (08) 9842 4500

email: [Ingrid.Hunt@dbca.wa.gov.au](mailto:Ingrid.Hunt@dbca.wa.gov.au)

### Pilbara Region

#### Karjini National Park

September and October

Ranger Steve Berris (08)9189 8147

email: [Steve.Berris@dbca.wa.gov.au](mailto:Steve.Berris@dbca.wa.gov.au)

### Kimberley Region

#### Walardi in Purnululu National Park

14 August to 11 September

Kurrajong from 1 August to 30 September

Senior ranger Georg Wandrag (08) 9168 7300

email: [georg.wandrag@dbca.wa.gov.au](mailto:georg.wandrag@dbca.wa.gov.au)



## Perth Observatory wins volunteer award

### The Perth Observatory Volunteer Group (POVG) has taken out the WA Community Volunteer Organisation of the Year Award for 2017.

POVG has been assisting the [Perth Observatory](#) since 1996 with its public outreach and education programs. In July 2015 these volunteers took over control of the observatory from DBCA and have continued to expand and deliver programs to the public.

Having been a volunteer for 10 years, John Tuffin nominated the group for the WA Volunteering award to acknowledge the passion and dedication of group members, and to promote some of the great programs at the observatory.

"I am very proud of our group and the professional manner in which the volunteers have kept this fantastic facility open to the public," he said.

"Perth Observatory volunteer hours last year were valued at nearly half a million dollars – a massive contribution to Western Australia.

"Approximately 7,500 people were lucky enough to benefit from the programs on offer and the feedback given from events we have participated in, or assisted with, has been excellent."

In 2016 POVG introduced the highly popular 'Winter Night Tour' instead of closing during the colder, wetter months and it has since been permanently incorporated into the tour list.



*Her Excellency the Honourable Kerry Sanderson AC, Governor of Western Australia, presenting members of the Perth Observatory Volunteer Group with their award. Photo – Diana Rosman*

Volunteers from different backgrounds offer a variety of skills, which have enabled the continuing success of the observatory.

School tours have been refined with the help of classroom teachers, to provide curriculum-related material.

"Our volunteers have done a wonderful service to the State and will undoubtedly continue to do so as they expand and improve the scientific and historic offerings to the public," John said.

DBCA continues to support the Perth Observatory and its volunteers and congratulates them on their award.

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 Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions.

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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Follow **Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions** on:



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