

Welcome to the November 2017 Volunteer Newsletter.

It is Kambarang in the Nyoongar calendar, which means flowers are blooming, snakes are on the move and birds are swooping to protect their nests. This makes for a busy time for the Wildcare Helpline volunteers, but their advice to the community is that it's all perfectly natural behaviour and in most cases, the best thing to do is to steer clear. If you need wildlife advice, call the Wildcare Helpline on 9474 9055, [visit the website](#), or download the new free app. Search for Wildcare Helpline on [iTunes](#) or the [Google Play](#) store.

It has been another outstanding year for volunteers and we would like to say a massive thank you to all our past, present and future volunteers. You help the department to achieve much more than it could without you.

For information about getting involved in volunteer projects please, [visit the website](#).

Seal Wise Guide now on the website

Seals are often sighted along Western Australia's coastline and estuaries. As some seal populations increase and as more people use coastal parts of the State, reports of sick or injured seals may also increase. Fortunately, most of these turn out to be false alarms and in most cases, seals do not need human intervention.

Some aspects of seal behaviour can make us think they are injured when they are not. The [Seal Wise Guide](#) will help you recognise normal seal behaviour and when you should report a sick or injured animal.

Consult the Seal Wise Guide on the Parks and Wildlife Service website to see if a seal needs help before calling the [Wildcare Helpline](#) on (08) 9474 9055.

Don't forget to download the free Wildcare Helpline smartphone app available for both [Android](#) and [iOS](#).



Photo: Sub-Antarctic fur seal, by Rick Dawson

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Department of Biodiversity,
 Conservation and Attractions



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Volunteer numbers continue to grow

Parks and Wildlife Service volunteers have again contributed a record number of hours to help conserve and manage WA's natural places, with 5,410 volunteers contributing 723,508 hours in 2016-17. This is an increase on last year's record totals and an outstanding equivalent of more than 96,000 work days!

Across the State, 21 new volunteer projects were registered with the department during 2016-17, including several 'Friends of' groups and animal monitoring projects. More than 1500 new volunteers were registered.

More than 2300 individuals earned themselves a Parks Pass by contributing more than 50 voluntary hours throughout the year, while others went further and received limited edition WA native animal badges and discounts on publications.

Having volunteers involved in our work greatly enhances the outcomes of the department, adding value to what we do and, in some cases, enabling us to accomplish work which may otherwise not be completed.

Significant projects in the last year included the [Campground Host program](#), which saw 240 volunteers spend more than 160,000 hours welcoming and sharing local information with visitors to national parks, as well as assist rangers with maintenance.

[Bibbulmun Track](#) volunteers contributed more than 27,000 hours keeping the track safe for walkers while Perth Observatory volunteers amassed 23,000 hours managing the centre's administration and delivering tours to school groups and members of the public (not to mention winning the Volunteering WA Community Volunteer organisation of the year!). Another key group is the Wildcare Helpline, which is featured in more detail [on page 3](#).

All in all, this is another fantastic effort by committed and passionate volunteers who generously give their time to conserving our natural areas and help Parks and Wildlife Service manage world class parks for tourism. Thank you to each and every one of our awesome volunteers.

If you would like to find out more about current projects, [visit the website](#).



Above Some of the department's volunteers are campground hosts welcoming and sharing information with visitors. Credit: DBCA.

Below Perth Observatory volunteers receive their award from the Governor her Excellency the Honourable Kerry Sanderson AC. Credit: Perth Observatory.



Wildcare Helpline demand still high

The Wildcare Helpline provides a service for the public who find sick or injured native wildlife and are seeking advice on what to do.

In 2016-17, volunteers assisting with the Helpline received more than 11,900 calls from concerned members of the public looking for help with sick or injured animals. (Call types are broken down in the chart below).

In addition to these calls, the [web page](#) received more than 13,000 unique visits from people searching for wildlife advice.

To assist with the large volume of interest, the department's Volunteers and Community Unit have developed a smartphone app designed to provide offline information

about what to do if you find sick or injured native animals, without the need to call the Helpline.

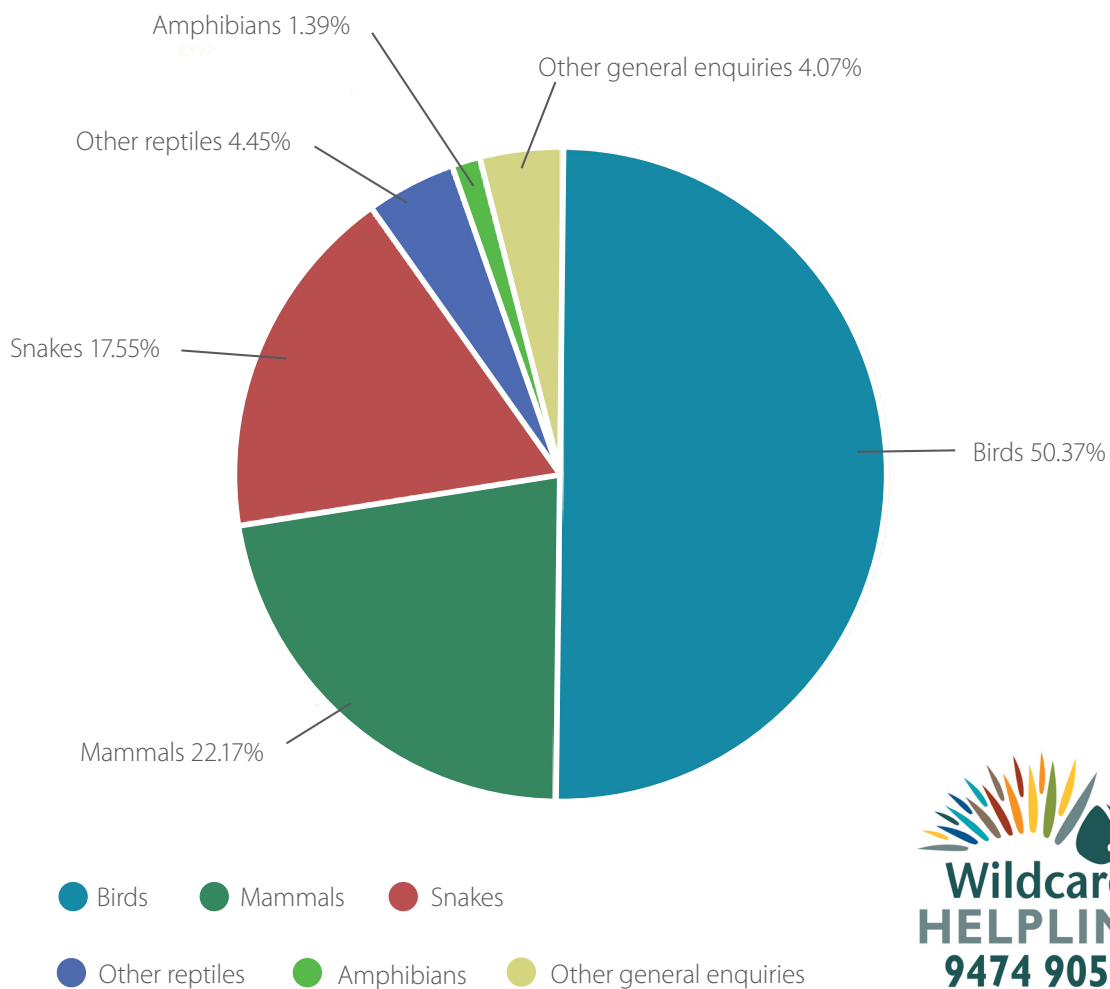
The app also contains links and phone numbers to assist in dealing with cane toads, stranded whales and dolphins, as well as information about becoming a volunteer.

You can still call the Helpline via the app if the information you need isn't covered.

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

If you've found sick or injured wildlife, call the Wildcare Helpline on (08) 9474 9055, visit the [website](#) or use the new app, available to download FREE on the [Google Play](#) and [Apple iTunes](#) stores.

Wildcare Helpline calls 2016-17



Celebrating Bankwest at Yanchep

Staff from Bankwest joined Parks and Wildlife Service at Yanchep National Park in September, marking the start of a new volunteer partnership.

About 20 bank employees spent a day weeding, planting, monitoring cockatoo hollows and learning about Aboriginal culture while taking in the beautiful park surrounds.

Parks and Wildlife Service volunteer program coordinator Lee Hollingsworth said it was the first time the department had established an ongoing volunteering partnership of this kind with the private sector.

“It is an exciting opportunity because we’re offering workers the chance to take an active role in protecting the environment, along with the mental and physical health benefits of volunteering,” he said.

“In turn, it strengthens our volunteer base and helps maintain and improve the park.”

Yanchep National Park volunteer coordinator Ciara McIllduff said it was a pleasure to have the Bankwest team in the park during Djilba.

“We worked on weeding parts of the Wetlands Walk Trail, as well as planting native trees and grasses, and in the afternoon spent time checking hollows for evidence of nesting Carnaby’s cockatoos,” she said.

Ciara said the partnership built on the park’s strong volunteer base, who were historically very committed to the beautiful park.

Bankwest volunteer programs manager Wendy Gauci said staff enjoyed their first day and relished the opportunity to learn more about Aboriginal culture from Yanchep National Park visitor services officer Derek Nannup.

“Our staff are particularly interested in reconciliation, so learning a bit more about Aboriginal culture and connection to country really highlighted how important it is for everyone to care for the land we all share,” she said.

Lee and Ciara expressed their gratitude to Bankwest, saying they looked forward to the next volunteer outing at the park.



1



2



3



4

1,2,3 Bankwest staff volunteers planting and weeding at Yanchep National Park. **4** Volunteers learning about Aboriginal culture.
Photos: Karla Graham/DBCA.

MyPestGuide Reporter

Interested in learning about and reporting on pests?

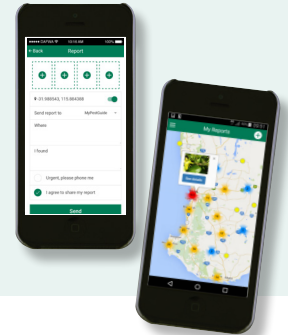
MyPestGuide lets you quickly identify pests and report your observations instantly to the Department of Agriculture and Food, Western Australia (DAFWA). The free support tools include a dedicated Reporter app, three pest identification field guides (iOS Apple and Android) and a community website.

MyPestGuide helps bring together people with similar pest problems in their local area to create a collaborative network.

By using the MyPestGuide app you can help support your local community and protect the natural environment from unusual or suspected exotic pests.

The information gathered by MyPestGuide users will assist the department in maintaining Australia's pest-free status. Report a pest today!

For more information visit the DAFWA website.



Campground host opportunities

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.

South Coast Region

Lucky Bay Campsite

Cape Le Grand National Park November, December and March 2018

Contact: Senior ranger Cameron Hennessy
Ph: (08) 9075 9072

Email: cameron.hennessy@dbca.wa.gov.au

Moingup Springs

Stirling Range National Park rest of 2017 and throughout 2018

Contact: Senior ranger John Abbott
Ph: (08) 9827 9230

Email: john.abbott@dbca.wa.gov.au

Kimberley Region

Mitchell River National Park May, June, July and August 2018
King Edward River

Contact: Senior ranger Lindsay Baker
Ph: (08) 9161 4172

Email: lindsay.baker@dbca.wa.gov.au

Swan Region

Yalgorup National Park July and August 2018

Contact: Ranger Ben Byrne
Ph: (08) 9303 7738

Email: ben.byrne@dbca.wa.gov.au

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 Parks and Wildlife Service.

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 Service unless otherwise stated.

Volunteers and Community Unit Parks and Wildlife Service

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Follow **Biodiversity, Conservation
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Ph: (08) 9219 8279 Fax: (08) 9219 8221

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Shorebird correction

In the August newsletter, the bird featured in the photo on page three, labelled 'A beach nesting bird', was a greenshank. It has since been pointed out to us that greenshanks do not nest on beaches and do not nest in Australia. If, like us, you need help with identifying birds you can find lots of information on the Birdlife Australia website



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