



PARKS AND WILDLIFE NEWS

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Staff gather to celebrate the first year of operations and the launch of the plan.



Director General Jim Sharp announces the release of the Strategic Directions 2014–17.

New directions set for department

After 12 months of successful operations, the Department of Parks and Wildlife has released a plan setting out the agency's directions and priorities for the next three years, with specific goals for next year.

Director General Jim Sharp said the *Department of Parks and Wildlife Strategic Directions 2014–17*, which builds on the previous one-year plan, aimed to focus investment and resources on programs that would result in tangible improvements to on-ground management outcomes.

"An emphasis on priorities, such as the Kimberley Science and Conservation Strategy, the *Parks for People* initiative and the renewal of the *Western Shield* program, will help the department build on the solid work of the past year," he said.

"To succeed in our aims, we need to set clear and achievable priorities and enhance our resources through innovation, collaboration and partnerships, together with traditional owners, to meet the expectations of a very informed, engaged and supportive public."

Jim said the corporate directions and goals would be adapted into more specific divisional, regional and branch operational plans in coming months.

"I would like to express my appreciation of the many staff, both individually and collectively, who contributed to the new plan. Their suggestions have greatly enhanced the end result."

Staff at Kensington gathered on 1 July to celebrate the achievements of the department's first year of operation and look to the future.

The plan, which is available to view on the department's [website](#), will be updated annually.

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Department of Parks and Wildlife



\$40 million upgrade for Fitzgerald River National Park

One of Australia's largest and most significant national parks has undergone a \$40 million upgrade designed to boost tourism along Western Australia's south coast and energise local businesses.

Officially opening the new facilities at Fitzgerald River National Park on Saturday 7 June, Premier Colin Barnett said improved access and visitor facilities would provide significant benefits for surrounding local communities.

"The park is a major tourism attraction on the south coast and is world renowned for its unique flora and fauna, with more species

of native animals found there than in any other reserve in the south of WA," Mr Barnett said.

"The park's spectacular and diverse landscapes are a key attraction for tourists and the completion of this major improvement program will allow better access to the spectacular south coast, while offering better protection for the park.

"A total of \$40 million was provided by the State and Federal governments to upgrade road access, camping facilities, recreational sites and walking trails. About \$30 million has been spent on road improvements with 40km of roads reconstructed

and sealed, and a further 40km of gravel roads upgraded by the State Government."

Environment Minister Albert Jacob said \$10 million had been spent on a number of recreation sites within the park.

"New visitor facilities including picnic areas, viewing platforms and walk trails have been created at Barrens Beach, Barrens Lookout, Four Mile Beach, East Mount Barren, Point Ann, Hamersley Inlet and Cave Point," Mr Jacob said.

The opening was the culmination of five years' of hard work and dedication by Parks and Wildlife staff in partnership with the community.



Director General Jim Sharp, Director Parks and Visitor Services Peter Sharp and Environment Minister Albert Jacob viewing some of the new facilities.



Elder Leonard Thorne gave an engaging presentation about traditional hunting methods.

Department celebrates Reconciliation Week

Parks and Wildlife staff recently celebrated National Reconciliation Week with a range of activities and events around the State.

Reconciliation Week, which ran from 27 May to 3 June, encourages the sharing and appreciation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and achievements to further the national reconciliation effort.

Aboriginal Heritage Unit manager Rhonda Murphy said it was fantastic to see staff from a wide range of divisions and branches within the department getting involved in events.

"The theme for 2014 was 'Let's walk the talk'. A number of Parks and Wildlife offices around the State held barbecues, presentations and morning teas to bring people together, share stories and celebrate achievements," she said.

The department joined forces with the Swan River Trust to present *Dadja merang* (meat and vegetables) on the

banks of the *Darlgarro Beelieer* (Canning River) in Perth.

Senior communications officer Lauren Emmerson said the event was a great success.

"Aboriginal elder Leonard Thorne taught us about traditional hunting methods. He has such an engaging presence and captured the audience's attention completely," she said.

"The connection to the land and the importance of knowing your place in the environment was such a strong message."

Increasing staff engagement in Reconciliation Week is an important strategy in the department's *Reconciliation Action Plan*, which was launched in October 2013.



Woylie release brings fresh hope for species

Senior technical officer Bruce Ward releases one of the woylies. Photo – Peter Nicholas/Parks and Wildlife.

Parks and Wildlife officers have successfully led the largest translocation of woylies ever undertaken in Western Australia, with 181 animals captured and relocated in the south-west to help with recovery efforts of the species.

Environment Minister Albert Jacob said department staff led trapping operations earlier this month in Perup Sanctuary near Manjimup, with assistance from Murdoch University volunteers and students.

“Translocating the animals is a delicate and challenging operation that involves setting up, checking and clearing traps overnight before releasing the animals before dawn,” Mr Jacob said.

“Following on-site health assessments, over three nights the critically endangered animals were released at two separate sites in nearby State forest, which are baited regularly and monitored for introduced predators.

“The unfenced translocation sites will continue to be monitored over the coming months.”

The Minister said Perup Sanctuary supported the most genetically diverse woylie population in WA.

“The woylie population within the 420ha enclosure, which excludes introduced predators, has thrived during the past four years with numbers increasing from 41 to about 600 animals,” he said.

“As the sanctuary nears capacity, it becomes increasingly important to translocate some animals into areas outside the enclosure, and to introduce new woylies to ensure ongoing genetic diversity and population health among the species. Successful re-establishment of a new population of woylies will be a significant boost to the conservation of the species.”

The department is continuing work to control feral cat and fox populations across key areas of the State through the *Western Shield* wildlife recovery program.

GIS develops radical new fire mapping technology

After extensive testing, a revolutionary fire mapping tool developed by Parks and Wildlife’s GIS developer Kelly Thomas is scheduled to be rolled out across the department’s fire operations.

The Tablet Aviation Capture Tool (TACT) application uses the camera function of Android tablet technology to capture fire boundaries and hot spots from the air, and then email the map to the incident control team directly from the aircraft.

Manager GIS Applications Shane French said TACT would save time as it can take several hours to receive maps with the current fire boundaries.

“The data captured using TACT is sent through in layers to the incident control team who input it into

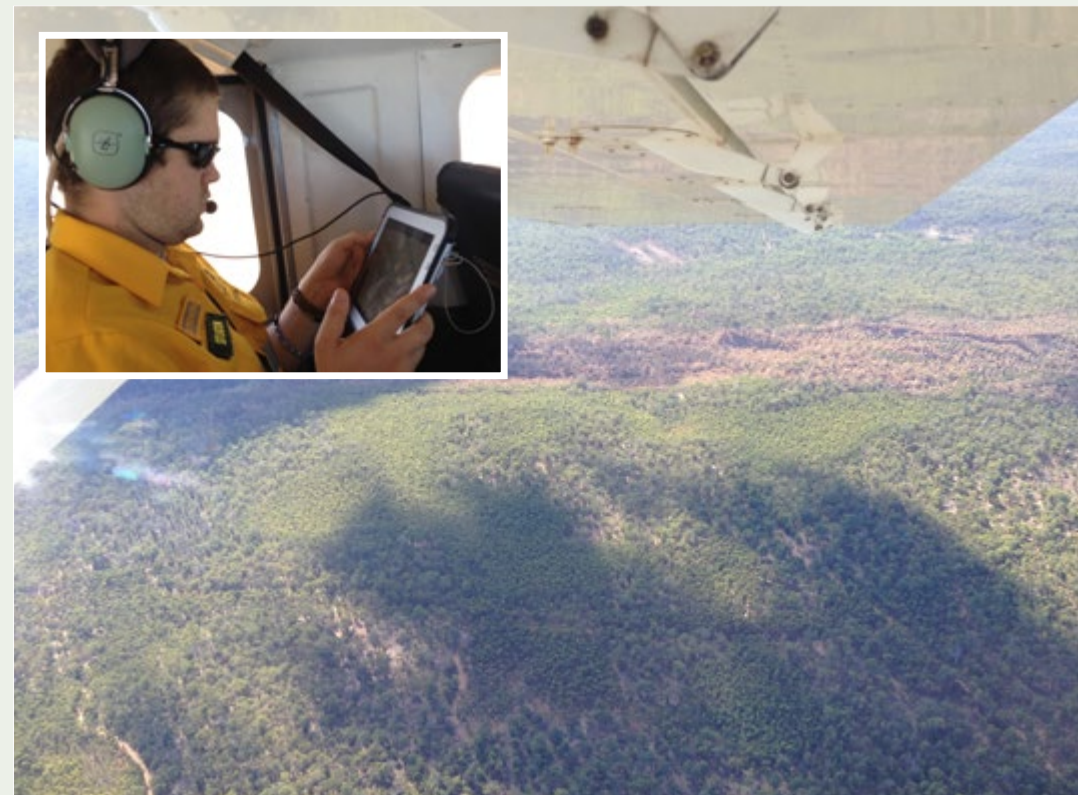
GIS software to create maps,” he said.

“The interactive maps show the coordinates of the fire boundary, hot spots, and ignition and water points.”

Shane said the app was developed as a simple and effective tool that could be used from the confines of a small bumpy aircraft.

TACT was commissioned by senior fire operations officer Brad Bourke and the department’s aviation team in collaboration with Fire Management Services Branch and the GIS Applications Section of the GIS Branch.

The aviation team have taken delivery of TACT and the app will be used in real fire situations next summer.



Spatial information project officer Bruce Touchstone using the new TACT application.



New population of endangered quoll discovered

A new population of the endangered northern quoll has been discovered on a Kimberley island in the Talbot Bay area.

Parks and Wildlife scientists made the discovery on a six-day survey trip with Dambimangari rangers, representing the Worrarra traditional owners, and volunteers from Monash University.

Announcing the discovery on World Environment Day on 5 June, Environment Minister Albert Jacob said the endangered marsupials were found on Molema Island in the proposed Horizontal Falls National Park.

“Northern quoll populations have declined sharply across most of their former range in northern Australia and islands such as Molema can provide refuge against mainland threats,” Mr Jacob said.

“This discovery highlights the importance of continuing research into Western Australia’s biodiversity and its conservation.”

While populations of northern quoll were known from 11 other Kimberley islands, Molema Island had not previously been surveyed because it was difficult to access. The survey team used a boat to access and place surveillance cameras on Molema Island and several other smaller islands nearby. Tracks and droppings of northern quolls were also found on two islands south-east of Koolan Island, which already has a known population of northern quolls.

The Minister said the discovery confirmed the importance of reserving the area as marine and national parks, with the immense natural values of the internationally renowned Horizontal Falls still being discovered.

Parks for People projects announced

The State Government’s \$21.05 million Parks for People initiative will deliver a range of visitor upgrades to national parks and reserves across the State.

Six projects in four regions, part funded by the State Government’s Royalties for Regions program, are already underway or will commence this year.

South-west

At Logue Brook Dam in Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park, \$1.28 million is being invested to build on works already under way and deliver at least 110 new camp sites for 300 campers by mid-2015. The new campground will also include gas barbecue shelters, six toilet blocks and 3.4km of internal roads.

At Conto campground in Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park, \$650,000 is being invested. By mid-2015 this will result in at least 30 new camp sites for 80 campers, a camp kitchen and toilets. Trails and roads will also be improved.

A \$250,000 expansion of the popular Black Point campground in D’Entrecasteaux National Park will create around 17 additional camp sites and improved facilities including new toilets, lookouts, shelters, walk trails and managed vehicle access to protect the fragile coastline.

Shannon National Park campground, between Walpole and Manjimup, will undergo a \$1.5 million redevelopment including the addition of tent camp sites, campervan and caravan sites and improved facilities.

Lane Poole Reserve

Over three years, \$2.45 million will be invested in Lane Poole Reserve. At Nanga campground this will go towards providing

29 dedicated caravan bays and sealed road access from Nanga Brook Road. Baden Powell recreation area will also get new toilets, signs, interpretation, car parks, walk trails and river access points.

Eight tent sites also are being created at the 10-hectare Nanga campground and two new toilets will be added. Other works include a new fire pit and picnic tables.

Dryandra Woodland

Construction is under way on a new campground within Dryandra Woodland, 170km south-east of Perth, to provide additional camp sites and facilities for a growing number of visitors.

The new Koongk-a-maya campground has been designed to accommodate the increasing number of visitors travelling to the area with caravans, camper trailers and campervans as well as catering for tent-based camping.

It includes new access roads, toilets and a sheltered camp kitchen, and will be able to accommodate about 90 campers at 34 new camp sites.

Credo Station

A new \$250,000 campground under construction at the former Credo Station, 75km north-west of Coolgardie, will boost camping opportunities in the historic Goldfields region.

Work is under way to create between 25 and 30 new camp sites near the homestead on the former pastoral station, which is now managed as a proposed conservation park. Works during the two-year project will include construction of two toilets and a barbecue shelter.

Congratulations to all graduates and award winners



The annual Graduation and Awards Ceremony provided an opportunity to acknowledge the achievements of staff.

Environment Minister Albert Jacob presented awards to the 2014 recipients, including those honoured in the inaugural Fire Management Rewards and Recognition Program.

Director General Jim Sharp said the program was developed to acknowledge staff members who consistently demonstrated excellence, leadership and dedication in their fire roles.

“The work of our fire management staff protecting communities, in the State’s natural assets and park infrastructure is always

*Left: Outstanding Leadership Award winner Ed Hatherley with Environment Minister Albert Jacob.
Below: Winners of the inaugural Fire Management Rewards and Recognition Program.
Photos – Peter Nicholas/Parks and Wildlife.*



appreciated, but it is opportune to formally recognise exceptional contributors,” he said.

The ceremony also saw 21 people graduate with qualifications in conservation and land management through the Pathways Program. In addition, 16 staff from the Department of Environment Regulation and two staff from Parks and Wildlife were recognised following the completion of training in areas including statutory compliance, environmental enforcement and investigations.

Fourteen recipients of the 2014 Scholarship Program were also recognised for their commitment to further education which will improve the skills and knowledge needed by both departments.

Four graduates from Parks and Wildlife’s Mentored Aboriginal Training and Employment Scheme (MATES) were also recognised.

Manager Registered Training Organisation Louise McCall said the Aboriginal Trainee of the Year was awarded to Keith Boombi, in recognition of his commitment to a range of roles including involvement in Kimberley biodiversity surveys.

Minister Jacob said these dedicated public servants have spent many hours working hard to complete job-specific training.

Following the awards ceremony, fire award recipient Michael Pasotti was selected for a professional development opportunity, which will see him attend an international conference in New Zealand hosted by AFAC, the peak body for fire and emergency services in Australasia.

Fire Management Rewards and Recognition Program

Outstanding Leadership Award

Ed Hatherley, Broome

Outstanding Achievement Award

Michael Pasotti, Mundaring

Outstanding Crew Leadership Award

Shaun McHenry, Walpole

Commendation Awards

Alex Bickley, Busselton

Tim Gregson, Wanneroo

Alfred Lorkiewicz, Bunbury

Keith Low, Kensington

Clayton Sanders, Wanneroo

Outstanding Contribution Awards

Anna MacDonald, Kensington

Michael Wright (Forest Products Commission), Bunbury

Paul Cassidy (Fulton-Hogan, contractor to Main Roads WA), Bunbury

Parks and Wildlife Mentored Aboriginal Training and Employment Scheme (MATES)

Certificate II in Conservation and Land Management

Keith Boombi, Kununurra

Eugene Park, Kununurra

Certificate III in Conservation and Land Management

Jason Fong, Broome

Benjamin Taylor, Exmouth

MATES Program Awards

Aboriginal Trainee of the Year

Keith Boombi, Kununurra

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Congratulations to all graduates and award winners

Kwabalitch Award

Jason Richardson, Kununurra

Pathways Program

Certificate III in Conservation and Land Management

Matthew Anning, Walpole

James Boothey, Kirup

Glenn Hancock, Mundaring

Jasper Kruse, Kununurra

Luke Millar, Pemberton

Simon Prins, Wanneroo

Marko Serra, Wanneroo

Certificate IV in Conservation and Land Management

Phillip Arthur, Exmouth

Phillipa Carboon, Yanchepp

Allan Clarke, Dwellingup

Huw Dilley, Exmouth

Tim Gregson, Wanneroo

Greg Hamlyn, Pemberton

Tony Howard, Exmouth

Timothy Hutton, Busselton

Philip Maher, Kirup

Grantly Morton, Jerramungup

John Prins, Margaret River

Alison Raper, Collie

Tracey Robins, Pemberton

Shannon Wilson, Pemberton

Pathways Program Award

Allan Clarke, Dwellingup

Department of Environment Regulation — Regulatory Training Program

Certificate IV in Government (Investigation)

Nathan Hallett, Albany

John Howell, Atrium

Ty Matson, Karratha

Karen Smith, Kensington

Carmen Standring, Broome

Certificate IV in Government (Statutory Compliance)

Amine Callegari, Bunbury

Stephen Checker, Geraldton

Caroline-Ann Conway-Physick, Geraldton

Fiona Esszig, Karratha

Alana Kidd, Karratha

Nathan Hallett, Albany

John Howell, Atrium

Ty Matson, Karratha

Paul Newell, Booragoon

Eleanor Notley, Atrium

Tony Panicciari, Booragoon

Christopher Phillips, Jurien Bay

Sonya Poor, Karratha

Suzanne Roworth, Karratha

Peter Van Schoubroeck, Albany

Karen Smith, Kensington

David Wilson, Booragoon

Haley Wilson, Karratha

Certificate IV in Government

Christine Walker, Atrium

Anita Damiani, Atrium

Scholarship Program

The Women's Scholarship in Honour of June Craig

Frances Hoskins, Master of Environmental Law

Jelena May, Master of Science (Natural Resource Management)

The Science Scholarship in Memory of Dr George Malajczuk

Stuart Barter, Graduate Certificate of Environmental Compliance

Wendy Chow, Graduate Diploma of Hydrogeology

Saorla Finucane, Master of Science (Environmental Management)

Rebecca Ong, Master of Science (Natural Resources)

Chris Nutt, Master of Science (Environmental Science)

Chris Philips, Master of Science (Environmental Science)

The Leadership Scholarship in Memory of Seamus Mulholland

Stephen Bradfield, Master of Business Administration (Leadership)

Director General's Scholarship for Career Development and Study Assistance

Paula Casserly, Double Diploma in Business and Human Resource Management

Thomas Holmes, Australian Diver Accreditation Scheme Occupational Diver Part 1

Nicola Mincham, Certificate IV in Government

Michael Rule, Australian Diver Accreditation Scheme Occupational Diver Part 1

George Shedrawi, Australian Diver Accreditation Scheme Occupational Diver Part 1

News in brief

State Cane Toad Strategy updated

An updated *Cane Toad Strategy* for WA has been released following a review of the first five years of the existing strategy's operation.

Environment Minister Albert Jacob said the strategy reflected progress in the implementation of the original 10-year strategy.

"With cane toads now appearing throughout the east Kimberley, the focus for the next five years is on preventing the establishment of new satellite populations and managing the impact of cane toads on native wildlife," Mr Jacob said.

Read more in the [full media statement](#).

Staff attend Nature Conservation Conference

More than 80 employees from across the State came together recently to attend the Science and Conservation Division 2014 Nature Conservation Conference.

Science and Conservation Director Margaret Byrne said it was great to see attendees from each of the department's nine regions, science programs, conservation branches, Forest and Ecosystem Management Division and Parks and Visitor Services Division.

"The conference featured a number of presentations on a wide range of topics. Peter Lyon, from the Commonwealth Department of the Environment, provided a national perspective on the development of biodiversity indicators," Margaret said.

"I would like to thank all the presenters and everyone who participated for their enthusiastic and thoughtful contributions."

The conference also provided a chance to begin a review of the five-year regional nature conservation plans, which guide the prioritisation and delivery of programs to conserve and manage flora, fauna, ecosystems and wetlands across the State.

"Reviewing these plans will greatly assist regions and divisions in continuing to deliver effective wildlife management," Margaret said.

"I look forward to continuing to work with the regions in developing and implementing the plans."



Pathways Program Award winner Allan Clarke.

Scholarship recipient Frances Hoskins.

MATES Program graduates.