

From: Tracy Churchill
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To: The Relay Mailout List; PVS Division Staff; PVS Regional Leaders Group
Subject: The Relay 56



The Relay 56



We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of country throughout Western Australia and their continuing connection to land, sea and community. We pay our respects to them, their culture and to their Elders past and present.

Welcome to the 56th issue of The Relay, the last for 2023.

We hope this newsletter finds you looking forward to some rest and relaxation over the festive season. But if you're working through, stay safe and hope it's not too crazy.

Please forward this post to your team and anyone you think would find it useful. Coming out every few months, bringing you requests from PVS Division and interesting news you might have missed.

News on PVS business is welcome from across the State, so contact Tracy C if you would like to contribute.

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Message from Peter Sharp

As 2023, and indeed my time as Executive Director of the Parks and Visitor Services Division draws to a close, I'm reflecting on the depth of talent we have, the energy and commitment we show and the amazing results we continually achieve. We are the 'Attractions' in DBCA and we matter. Our rating is "AAA" on a national, indeed global scale.

It has been a privilege to work with you all. I am constantly impressed and grateful for your diligence, commitment and professionalism. The goals and targets that we continue to reach and surpass, is a testament to your passion, professionalism, commitment, capabilities and enthusiasm for the job.

Not only are we the 'attractives', we do our bit as 'conservers' for protecting and conserving for some of the world's most biodiverse places that are part of the Western Australian identity. We are driven by our desire to make a positive contribution to improving the lives of Aboriginal people, increasingly our joint management partners, and engendering advocacy from our visitors by designing and facilitating innovative ways for people to visit and connect with WA's conservation estate.

There's no doubting that the State Government's commitments in parks over the past few years have created outstanding opportunities

and challenges. I hope you can take a moment to reflect on our incredible hard work, and feel proud of what we achieved together, as 'team PVS' for the public good.

As we head into 2024 and the culmination of Plan for Our Parks, I would like to congratulate and thank everyone involved. This is now the most successful native title agreement making program ever undertaken in the country, with 14 ILUAs now through Community Authorisation, and 2.5 million hectares of new parks created. As a division, we are also making a significant contribution to the implementation of the South West Native Title Settlement, and maintain responsibility for the administration of the statewide Aboriginal Ranger Program, which is now an \$103 million program delivering tangible social, economic and environmental outcomes. We've passed the 'pub test' in spades.

I would also like to thank and acknowledge everyone involved in delivering capital works under election commitments and the WA Recovery Plan. The timeframes and quantum have been intense, but the outcomes for park visitors are outstanding. When I'm out and about in our parks I make a deliberate effort to sidle up to visitors, ask them where they are from, if they have enjoyed their visits to the parks, whether they have any substantial concerns or words of advice to the department. Inevitably, and almost without exception, the effusive response is one of a great appreciation for our efforts, including those of our volunteers. Nearly all othersiders say we need to be exporting our standards and approaches, including facilities, to the east coast. They ask 'how have we achieved what we have achieved?' and my response has been we have best people, we have Royalties for Regions and we have successive governments and communities who value what we do.

I'd like to thank each and everyone one of you, who in your own way, makes a contribution to our collective outcomes. Whether it's in the running of our parks and land management business, or delivering State priority projects, Western Australians value you, and the work you do.

I'll be clearing my desk over the coming weeks but intend on seeing out the remainder of the financial year on some yet to be finalised

tasks. As the Division moves into a new era, and under new management that will reshape our direction (congratulations to Luke), I encourage all of you to keep looking at our achievements, our shared goals and our long-term vision for the future.

Remember 'we play the long game'. The journey we have been on, and our continued trajectory, continue to enrich what we do and why. Keep investing in relationships – those built on authenticity and trust will underpin how we move forward. Our ability to achieve will be enabled by how we continue to work collaboratively with our colleagues, our joint management partners and more broadly, with other agencies, stakeholders and community. We can only continue to deliver on our vision and commitments if we have the support of Western Australians, who make up the majority of parks visitors and vote for our governments. I know that your integrity and commitment will hold you in good stead.

So, take some time to rest - we need to care for ourselves first and foremost. Keep supporting each other. With thanks, respect and warm wishes to each of you and your families, have a lovely Christmas and happy new year.



2023 Volunteer Awards

Lee Hollingsworth, Volunteer Management

On Tuesday December 5, Ross Simpson was presented with the 2023 DBCA Volunteer of the Year award by Darren West MLC and Executive Director, Parks and Visitor Services Peter Sharp, for his exceptional contribution to the [Bibbulmun Track](#) in the 2022-23 financial year.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all DBCA staff involved in the development and ongoing management of volunteer projects, as well as the day-to-day supervision of volunteers. Their diligence and commitment continues to ensure the success of the program across the department and make it an enjoyable experience for all.

[Read more about the Volunteer Awards here](#)



AILA recognises Vicki Winfield

Nathan Greenhill, Recreation, Planning and Design

The Australian Institute of Landscape Architects has awarded Vicki Winfield a Fellowship, presented recently by our very own Bel Foster, Vice President AILA WA Chapter. This is an honour that AILA may bestow upon registered members in recognition of distinguished service to AILA and the profession.

Vicki joined CALM in 1988 as one of the first Landscape Architects. This was during the period when broad scale recreation planning and site design on public lands across WA was rapidly evolving and Vicki soon became a significant contributor. Vicki was employed as the first PVS Regional Leader in the Southern Forest Region, now Warren. She excelled in implementing a network of quality visitor facilities and led the writing of a comprehensive Recreation Framework Plan for the Southern Forests, which ranks among the department's most noteworthy and useful broadscale recreation planning initiatives. As well as helping to ensure the best match of visitor experiences with recreation opportunities across the region, the framework plan has proved invaluable in prioritising and guiding resource investment and capital allocation decisions. Vicki left the department in 2015 and worked in private practice before recently retiring.

Congratulations Vicki on your Fellowship and on a long and illustrious career.



Vicki accepting the Fellowship



Alan Sands and Vicki - long term colleagues



Vicki's family Cliff, Joe and Francis

Reserves Bill 2023

Nicola Mincham, Land Services

Long standing work between the Land Services Unit and Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage have seen an Omnibus Reserve Bill containing changes to 7 national parks, conservation parks and class A reserves pass through Parliament. The Bill includes long standing excisions to Neerabup National Park, Leda Nature Reserve and two other nature reserves, improving the boundaries of the reserve and removing conflicts with other land uses. One reserve change by DPLH was to facilitate transfer of the reserve as part of the Yamatji National ILUA.

The Bill also includes changing a portion of Lane Poole Reserve to national park and, as part of Plan for our Parks changing Mount Manning Conservation Park to a national park.

150,320 hectares will come national park once all section of the legislation are proclaimed in early 2024. The 38 hectares being removed from the conservation estate will rationalise the management boundaries of reserves and address long standing commitments.

Campground Host Induction Day

Lee Hollingsworth, Volunteer Management

The Volunteer Coordination Unit organised an Induction Day on 30 October to enable 45 eager volunteers to join the Campground Host program. The morning consisted of a program overview, Aboriginal Cultural Awareness, and mandatory Health and Safety training. All sessions received great feedback but a talk from experienced campground hosts, Rod Lee and Gary Stenhouse stole the show.

Awesome day, can't wait to start hosting

Volunteer

[Read more here](#)



Building collective capacity

Ross Kermode, Regional Leader Joint Management

It is always important to get our foundations right in everything we do. In the joint management space we all work with slight variations within the Joint Management Agreements and ILUAs we have in place with our Traditional Owner partners. We acknowledge, everyone is busy, but this training is so important.

The Midwest Region has just conducted 4 bespoke training sessions with Yinggarda, Badimia, Yamatji Nation and Jidi Jidi, each has helped us learn together and refine our mutual JM roles. Our Regional and

District staff have all engaged well, supporting our growing Joint Management Team approach and ensuring our JMBs get a clear understanding into what DBCA land management looks like and we are all benefiting from the two-way knowledge, direction and decisions shared through our JMB meetings.

[Read more here](#)



New joint management resource

Matt Fossey, Aboriginal Engagement and Heritage

A new information sheet, [Collaborative research in jointly managed parks](#), is now available to assist those involved in research and monitoring projects in jointly managed parks and reserves.

This resource points out important documents for researchers to refer to in planning their proposals, and outlines some key considerations for the different phases of a research process, including planning and approvals, conducting fieldwork on Country, and communicating results. It also lists the principles of good collaborative research, many of which apply to other knowledge sharing projects and opportunities on Country.

Are you following us on the socials?

Danielle Ayres, Visitor Communications and Marketing

I know, some of you will be groaning now, or even flick past this.

Social media is a significant channel for engaging with the community. We use it to communicate key environmental and safety messages, as well as promote the work we do. The team in Visitor Communications and Marketing Branch are well placed to lead us in this 'brave new world', even though Facebook has been around since 2004.

In a world that measures everything, we celebrate a new milestone for the team hitting a 30% rise in both Instagram and Facebook reach in just one year.

If you haven't already, follow us at [Explore Parks WA Instagram](#) and [Explore Parks WA Facebook](#).

Well done Rachel and team!

[Read more here](#)



From social struggles to social stardom

dpaw.sharepoint.com

Woah! Hold onto your hashtags, Explore Parks WA Instagram and Facebook has just hit a milestone! After months/years of burning the midnight oil our Facebook and Instagram followers and reach has skyrocketed. Maybe not skyrocketed, but Facebook does...

Spotlight on tourism and concessions

Parks and Wildlife Service promote nature and culture-based tourism opportunities on CALM Act land.

Tourism and Concessions Branch in PVS Division lead by issuing and helping to manage a range of leases and licences including commercial operations licences, commercial leases, apiary permits, and commercial filming and events licences. The branch also provides advice to departmental staff and the tourism industry to facilitate tourism development and revenue-generating initiatives.

A [new intranet page](#) provides you with the necessary background and legislative information on why we do what we do - issue leases and license, provide lawful authorities, charge entry and camping fees and initiate, partner and promote nature and culture-based tourism opportunities.

[Open intranet page here](#)



Tourism and concessions

dpaw.sharepoint.com

PVS training and professional development

Find information and training calendar for PVS-led training on the [Training Hub here](#).

- 12 March 2024 - Introduction to legislation and regulation for PVS
- 14-16 May 2023 - Project management for recreation development - discuss with Paul McCluskey
- ACAT dates for 2024 are yet to be confirmed. Check [ACAT page](#) for more information.
- Volunteer management training is always [available online](#).

Quick links



TBC - Introduction to legislation and regulations for PVS



Project management for recreation development



Aboriginal cultural awareness training (course registration)



Volunteer Management Training

PVS intranet

Upgrades and additions on the PVS intranet continue. A new ['directory' page](#) may provide a easy reckoner to find information about PVS. Try it and let Tracy know of improvements.



Welcome to Parks and Visitor Services

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Parks and Wildlife Service staff working in parks and visitor services are responsible for delivering environmental, social, cultural and economic benefits through a world-class parks system.

PVS staff news

Welcome to all new staff working in PVS across the State in RFMS and PVS divisions and congrats to those made permanent.

Salvo ...

- Colin Ingram retired
- Chris Nutt and Ben Tannock resigned
- Matt Verdouw and Luke Coney on extended leave, apply for PVS Regional Leader Pilbara position if you're keen
- Sara Hands is A/PVS Coordinator Albany
- Sarah Bignell seconded to Biodiversity and Conservation Science
- Gen O'Connor and Natalie Elliott on maternity leave
- Katie McWilliams returns to Fire Management Branch

- Rory Chapple is A/PVS Coordinator Blackwood District
- Ryan Smith is A/PVS Coordinator Frankland
- Ben Thorton permanently in Capital Works and Asset Management Unit
- Janett Enke and Jason Mant join Capital Works Asset Management Unit
- Michael Higgins permanently in Planning Unit
- Rob Howard and Brittany Porter join Planning Unit
- Mel Titelius and Tori Jones join Land Services Unit
- Natascha Sommer A/PVS Coordinator Exmouth
- Tasmin Vivian-Williams and Sally Foss join Recreation, Planning and Design Unit
- Ray de Jong, Rebecca Tapp and Mark Bonshore join Aboriginal Engagement and Heritage Unit
- Tiahsha Hill joins Aboriginal Engagement and Heritage Unit as PSC Aboriginal Trainee
- Zoe Bevan, Leah Firth and Teale Audas join Tourism and Concession Branch

Contact Tracy C if someone missed out.

Latest news you might have missed



From social struggles to social stardom



**DBCA Volunteer of the Year 2023
- Ross Simpson**



Foundations for good joint management: Building our collective capacity

CGH Induction day - 30th October 2023



New DBCA resource on research in jointly managed parks

Until next time

Thank you for being an integral part of the PVS team. Together, we ensure the natural and cultural values entrusted to us are protected, celebrated and enjoyed by the community.

If you would like to contribute to the next issue of The Relay, please don't hesitate to contact Tracy Churchill.

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Tracy Churchill

Visitor and Regional Services
Coordinator

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