

**From:** Tracy Churchill  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 11 December 2024 1:07 PM  
**To:** The Relay Mailout List  
**Subject:** The Relay 59 - updates on PVS business



## The Relay 59 - updates on PVS business

Published 11/12/2024

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.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are advised that this page may contain images of people who are deceased.

We hope this newsletter finds you in good health and high spirits, looking forward to a new year of fun and frivolity.

This year has been a doozy and everyone is so busy! It's hard sometimes to keep focused on all the good work we are doing, so easy to see the things not done than what we achieved. It's a good time of year to take a deep breath and reflect on what the difference you have made to our visitor's experience and appreciation of nature and culture.

Please forward this issue to your team and anyone you think would find it useful. Join **The Relay Mailout** group to receive this post as a newsletter.

*Banner image: Induction day for volunteer campground hosts in October 2024*

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## End of year message from Luke

I'd like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a happy Christmas and a great New Year and hopefully you'll spend some time doing the things that you love to do over this summer, whether it be getting down to the beach or spending time with family and friends or playing with your dog.

I also want to say thank you for this year. There's been some incredible achievements through the large amount of work done in Plan for Our Parks, the amazing works across our parks from John Forrest to Yellagonga through to Karijini and down to Albany. And the works we undertake supporting our volunteers. It was great to be with Lee, Gemma, Sallie and Roxanne last week at the volunteer awards, seeing what our amazing volunteers do and how they support our people.

We welcomed a new division this year with the move of our Tourism and concession branch to the Nature-based Tourism Division. Welcome Sveva to the team and good to have you on board.

Everything we do is so important to getting people to care about what's important in WA, and that's being in our national parks, marine parks and valuing those places as incredibly special.

It's been an incredible year for all of us, but for me personally, it's been an absolute joy and an honour to be a leader in part of this. You are an amazing team, so thank you all again and I hope you have a good festive season.



[2024 PVS End of year message\\_Luke](#)



## **Welcome Sveva Falletto as new ED Nature-based Tourism Division**

The newest division in the department now has the newest Executive Director.

Sveva joins us from Tourism WA where she was Director Aboriginal Tourism. Prior to joining the State Government, she worked in the Kimberley, Indonesia and Northern Territory in roles that spanned the breadth of the nature-based tourism sector.

Sveva also has extensive industry experience working with Traditional Owners.

Sveva's career journey has been defined by culture and conservation and these values will help build on the excellent foundational work that Jacinta Overman and the team in Nature-based Tourism Division have already delivered over recent months.

Welcome Sveva!



## New process for management plans

Jess Lindsay, Aboriginal engagement, planning and lands branch

The new [Procedure for preparing management plans under the CALM Act](#) was endorsed by the Corporate Leadership Committee (CLC) at its 8 November 2024 meeting. The CLC has also endorsed new frameworks for the management planning process and management plans.

These documents are important outcomes from the across-agency Review and Reform of CALM Act Statutory Management Planning project currently underway, led by the [Aboriginal Engagement, Planning and Lands Branch](#).

[Read news post here](#)

## Introducing our joint management partners

Felicity Kelly, Aboriginal engagement and heritage

As of October 2024, DBCA has entered into 27 joint management partnerships with Traditional Owner groups, covering 10.2 million hectares of conservation estate.

Taking the time to learn about the many joint management partners, their story, connection to Country and aspirations to care for land and sea is a step towards recognition of the continual connection Aboriginal people have with Western Australia.

Central support joint management have been working with the regions through relevant Joint Management Bodies to develop profiles on each partnership. Read about [Murujuga Aboriginal Corporation here](#).

More profiles of joint management partners will be added as they are developed and approved.

Learn more about our joint management partners here

## Policy no. 87 updated

Felicity Kelly, Aboriginal engagement and heritage

The Department has updated [Corporate Policy Statement No. 87 - Joint Management, Cooperative Management & Joint Vesting with Traditional Owners](#).

Since the development of Corporate Policy Statement No. 87 in 2015, there has been a substantial increase in the number of joint management agreements and the proportion of WA's conservation estate jointly managed with Aboriginal partners.

Joint management and joint vesting are key components of agreement-making between the State and Traditional Owners to share objectives to care for Country.

Key updates include expanding the scope to cover joint and cooperative management, recognising the needs to engage with staff and committing to incorporating joint and cooperative management into department processes.

Read news post for more information

## New State Planning Policy 3.7 - Planning in bushfire prone areas

Shannon Hassell, Nature-based tourism division

State Planning Policy 3.7 and associated Guidelines - Planning in Bushfire Prone Areas (SPP 3.7) have been reviewed and updated.

Nature-based Tourism and PVS divisions, with the support of RFMS Division, advocated strongly for amendments to SPP 3.7 to make it more enabling of tourism and other developments on DBCA managed lands in bushfire prone areas, as the policy/guidelines did not adequately take into account all of the hard work that DBCA does regarding fire prevention, mitigation and management.

Changes have subsequently been made that we hope will assist both DBCA and current and future tourism lessees to undertake suitable developments such as accommodation.

Additionally, NBT, PVS and RFMS in conjunction with Tourism WA are working on an additional enabling document ('guidance statement') that is aimed at further assisting decision makers assess development proposals on DBCA managed lands. This was suggested by DPLH, and we are happy to do all we can to help enable appropriate nature-based tourism and other developments.

Open news post and access documents here



## Outdoors October focuses on mental health

Rachel Hutton, Visitor communications

Outdoors October is a month-long celebration of all outdoor activities. This year's theme was 'Get outside for mental health'. 🌿

Studies show that spending just two hours a week in nature is fantastic for your mental health and is also linked to significant reductions in the risks of chronic disease.

Find out more at [www.outdoorsoctober.org.au](http://www.outdoorsoctober.org.au) and check out people's adventures on socials with the hashtag #OutdoorsOctober.

Read news post here

## Recruiting Aboriginal peoples in DBCA

Felicity Kelly, Aboriginal engagement and heritage

A set of guidelines and tips have been developed to improve the recruitment process for Aboriginal people and make it more inclusive.

The [Recruitment for Aboriginal staff at DBCA](#) page provides practical suggestions on how to broaden outreach when advertising positions, as well as opportunities to adapt the application and interviewing process to make it more inclusive, and culturally sensitive.

[Read news post here](#)

## New WA hiking trail management guidelines

Alison Pritchard, Recreation and trails

The Recreation and trails unit are excited to announce the release of the WA Hiking Trail Management Guidelines.

The guidelines are the first of their kind in Australia and provide comprehensive direction for the development, management, and maintenance of hiking trails across Western Australia.

They are an essential tool for land managers, trail builders and users to ensure a consistent approach to planning, designing, constructing and managing sustainable hiking trails. They will ensure hiking trails across WA are sustainably designed and developed for the right users, in the right areas for the right reasons.

They have been developed in collaboration with DBCA, DLGSC and key stakeholders.

[Read about trails and download guidelines here](#)

## 2023-24 PVS Dashboard available

Tracy Churchill, Visitor services

The 2023-24 PVS Dashboard is now available and provides invaluable insight into our business including trends and changes across PVS operational areas comprising a collection of snapshots with an in-depth report on services, assets, revenue and other operational activities.

Read a summary of the year that was and check out the many snapshots that provide an significant amount of information and data on our business, be it on PVS managed revenue, joint management progress, our lands and waters, asset investment and capital expenditure or recreation assets.

A new trails inventory has been added. **First time ever** we been able to say with some confidence how many trails we have and where they are located.

[Open PVS Dashboard here](#)

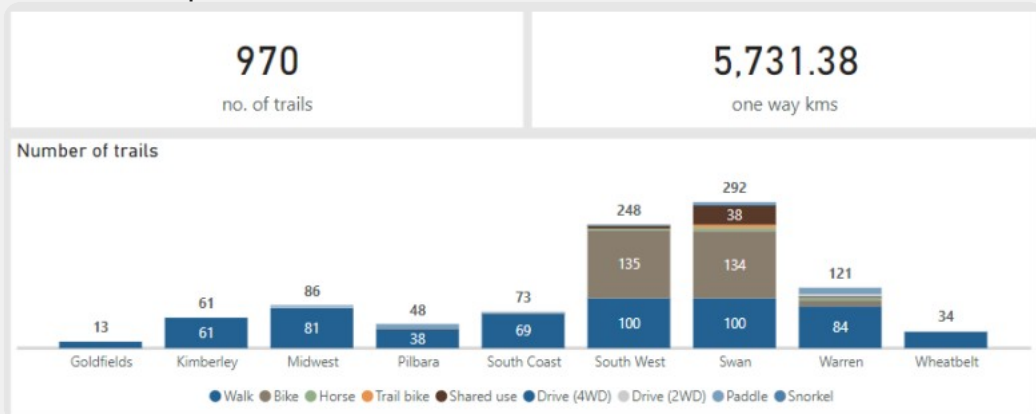
## New trails inventory



Tamara Waddell, Recreation and trails

We are pleased to introduce you to our new trails inventory on [Power BI](#). The latest in the PVS Dashboard provides a comprehensive snapshot of trails across the State, featuring 970 trails and nearly 5,800kms.

The inventory includes most of the recognised trail types, including walk, bike, horse, trail bike, shared use, 2WD and 4WD drive, paddle and snorkel trails. You can sort and filter the inventory by trail type, classification, region, district, location, and trail network, allowing you to create personalised lists and charts.



This the first step in our trails database and asset management project. Future steps will include collating trail user data from various trail counters and reconciling with corporate spatial data and RecData records. Providing accurate trail information to [Trails WA](#) is also an ongoing priority to ensure the public has correct information for a safe and enjoyable trails experience.

The inventory was initiated by Paul McCluskey, who gathered the majority of trail information together. Staff from various regions and districts have since updated and verified the information is as accurate as possible. This involved a lot of time and effort from the district staff, so we extend our gratitude to everyone who contributed. We need to keep the trail inventory updated so will come to park managers at the end of each financial year.

[Open Trails snapshot here](#)

## Induction day for new campground hosts

Sallie Hopyoy, Volunteer coordination

Late October, we welcomed 38 new volunteers into the Campground Host Program after a day of in-person training.

The program included a presentation from Baleigh, Health, safety and wellbeing section on the mandatory health and safety requirements for campground hosts. Oscar,

Visitor engagement and social research demonstrated Park Stay campground booking system. There was also de-escalation and communication training by Christian Mauri on behalf of [Evolve](#). David Manning from [Animal Ark](#) concluded the day with his fantastic snake awareness workshop.

Rangers and staff from a number of regions and parks met during the breaks to talk about their campgrounds. Big thanks to all staff who attended and helped make the day such a success.

[Read more and check out photos here](#)



## Launch of Explore Parks e-newsletter

Rachel Hutton, Visitor communications

We are excited to announce the launch of the Explore Parks e-newsletter.

This new, bi-monthly digital publication is designed to provide visitors with insightful and seasonally focused content on various regions, showcasing the beauty and diversity of WA's parks. Each edition of the e-newsletter will spotlight a different region with articles, updates, and highlights for the season.

The Destination Perth edition was delivered to inboxes on 22 November. If you missed it, here's the [newsletter](#) and here's the link to [subscribe](#).

Coming up in January is Australia's South West, March is Australia's Coral Coast and May a special winter edition.

We will contact regional leaders before each edition for news, stories or information related to the area. It could be new or upgraded facilities, campgrounds, places in parks that aren't regularly visited or safety alerts.



## Works on Cape to Cape Track

Clint Hull, Capital works and asset management

A major project to upgrade the iconic and popular Cape to Cape Track is underway in Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park.

In response to the December 2021 Calgardup bushfire, the Margaret River and Busselton Tourism Association and Shire of Augusta-Margaret River led the preparation of a six-point recovery plan for the park which was sent to the Minister for Environment in January 2022.

This investment over two years in the park to upgrade infrastructure and rebuild the Cape to Cape Track demonstrates the Government's commitment to WA most visited and highly valued national park.

The project has been allocated \$2 million on upgrades to the Cape to Cape Track and \$700,000 on the provision of new and improved signs and visitor information in the national park.

[Read news post and check out photos](#)

## PVS training and professional development

We are working on the rollout of a PVS 101 induction day for district and regions across the State. Watch this space.

Courses on offer -

- [13-15 May 2025 - Project management for recreation development](#)

### Training news



**Visitor monitoring training days**



**Sustainable trails training takes to the hills**

[Open PVS Training Hub here](#)

## PVS intranet

It's no secret that the intranet can be a bit daunting. Where to find things? PVS content is located in a number of areas. Hope this list helps.

### Intranet links



[Welcome to Parks and Visitor Services](#)



[Welcome to Nature-based Tourism Division](#)



[Welcome to Aboriginal engagement](#)



[VRM Home](#)

## PVS staff news

So ...

- Welcome to Sveva Falletto as new Executive Director, Nature-based Tourism Division
- Laurina Bullen has resigned and Kylie Tame replaces her as senior planning officer leading the terrestrial planning group

- Jacki Baxter joins Goldfields Region as A/PVS regional leader for 6 months and Deb Olds is backfilling as visitor communications coordinator
- Amy Robey and Christie Bentick joins the visitor communications unit as communications designers
- Evelyn Botman joins the Aboriginal engagement, planning and lands unit as policy and project officer
- Matilde Breton joins Pilbara region as project officer capital works
- Matt Verdouw has transferred to the Midwest Region as a project officer primarily for the Mount Augustus NP Improvements project
- Nick Detchon has been seconded to another regional project officer role for delivery of PfOP capital projects associated with the Minangu TO group
- Alex Purich joined as capital works unit as a project manager and now moving to Wellington District as A/PVS coordinator for 6 months
- From capital works unit, Hailong (Andy) Lee is taking 6 months long service leave and Janett Enke is taking 12 months leave, Ian Steward retired in October and Jordan Gibbs is returning from parental leave
- Linda Kopp is very welcome back from 6 months leave
- Karla Forrest is on maternity leave for 12 months

## News you might have missed



**Wambenger Trails officially open**



**Important steps for the Ballardong Aboriginal Corporation**



**Rabbit Hill Lookout upgrade**



**Governance Training for Joint Management Bodies**



**Completion of Tjiwarl Conservation Estate and first land handover of T**



**World Female Ranger Week at DBCA**

## 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 email [therelay@dbca.wa.gov.au](mailto:therelay@dbca.wa.gov.au).



**Tracy Churchill**

Visitor and Regional Services Coordinator

More news and events

[View in SharePoint](#)



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