



Nesting fairy tern and chick. Photo – Leeanne Beavis.

## Welcome to the first **Volunteer News** for 2018

February and March are known as Bunuru in the Nyoongar calendar and can be the hottest time of the year with little or no rain. As such, it is a great time to be near the coast, rivers and estuaries. Luckily, we have many projects that can help you to do this! You can find information about **volunteering opportunities** online. If you want to learn more about Nyoongar seasons and culture download the **Sharing the Dreaming** mobile app (currently available on the iTunes store).

If your volunteer group is doing some interesting work or looking for new recruits, don't forget the Volunteers and Community Unit can help you to put the word out, either through this newsletter or our database of volunteers. If you have something that may be of interest contact [community@dbca.wa.gov.au](mailto:community@dbca.wa.gov.au).

To assist with recruiting, the Volunteer Code of Conduct has been revised. The new two-page version captures the essential information volunteers need to get started. If you haven't seen it, or need a refresher, view the new **Volunteer Code of Conduct**.

## March 2018

### Inside this issue



Department of Biodiversity,  
Conservation and Attractions



Volunteer of the Year awards	2	Identification app to put frogs on the map	6
Beach nesting birds at Point Walter	4	Campground host vacancies 2018	7
Registrations open for <i>Great Cocky Count</i>	6	New look for volunteer opportunities search	8

# Volunteer of the Year awards

To celebrate International Volunteer Day, Parks and Wildlife Service held its annual Volunteer of the Year awards on 5 December 2017.

Awards were presented by Environment Minister Stephen Dawson and Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) Director General Mark Webb.

Mr Webb said that 2017 marked the 20th year of the awards.

“Over that time, we have acknowledged more than 200 outstanding volunteers who have donated countless hours of hard work and commitment to protecting the natural environment of Western Australia,” he said.

“Last year, more than 5,000 Parks and Wildlife Service volunteers contributed more than 700,000 hours to volunteer projects around the State – a record effort – congratulations go to these and all of our exceptional volunteers.”

Lee Hollingsworth, Volunteer Program Coordinator said the awards were an opportunity for Parks and Wildlife Service to thank its volunteers.

“They play an important role in the community across a variety of areas in their generous contribution to protecting our natural environment.”

The prestigious Volunteer of the Year Award for 2017 went to Eddie Seaman in recognition of his work in Stirling Range National Park.

A new award for special contribution to fauna conservation, the *Western Shield* Volunteer Award, was introduced in 2017 and awarded to Jade Kelly.



2017 Volunteer of the Year Eddie Seaman with Environment Minister Stephen Dawson.

A Community Group Award was presented to WA Seabird Rescue. Five Outstanding Service awards and nine Long Service awards for more than 20 years of voluntary work were presented.

Congratulations and thanks to all the recipients for their valuable contribution to WA's natural environment.

**More information about volunteering opportunities can be found [on the website.](#)**

Volunteer of the Year continued....

## Volunteer of the Year winners

2017 Volunteer of the Year – Eddie Seaman (Stirling Range National Park)

2017 Community Group Award – WA Seabird Rescue

2017 Western Shield Volunteer Award – Jade Kelly

### Outstanding Service

Errol Thoomes (Science and Conservation Division, Goldfields Region)

Gary Schwab (William Bay National Park Association)

Ce Kealley (The Bibbulmun Track Foundation)

Ken Stranger (Perth Observatory Volunteer Group)

Peter Muirden (Lake McLarty Hydrology Strategy)

### Long Service awards (20+ years and still active)

Jackie Hamilton (wildlife rehabilitator, Native Animal Rescue, Malaga)

Deidre Patterson (registered wildlife rehabilitator)

Mavis Sowry (at least 16 different projects over the years)

Wendy Jarman (registered wildlife rehabilitator)

Jean and Fred Hort (WA Herbarium, rare flora and priority species)

Pat Johns (Albany Herbarium)

Christine Rafferty (registered wildlife rehabilitator)

Doreen McAllan (wildlife rehabilitator, Wildcare Helpline and various fauna recovery projects)



*WA Seabird Rescue president Halina Burmej accepts the 2017 Community Group Award from Environment Minister Stephen Dawson.*



*2017 Western Shield Volunteer Award winner Jade Kelly with Environment Minister Stephen Dawson.*



## Beach nesting birds at Point Walter

*River Guardians* volunteers have been busily monitoring beach nesting birds, particularly fairy terns, at Point Walter sand spit.

Fairy terns lay one or two speckled eggs in a shallow scrape in the sand above the high-tide mark. This makes the eggs and chicks highly vulnerable to disturbance from people or animals, as well as being easy targets for predators.

Volunteers, with the support of Birdlife WA, the City of Melville and Scotch College, created and installed chick shelters to provide a safe place for the birds to nest out of sight of predators.

The volunteers have also been monitoring the site, recording incidences of disturbance and the numbers of birds and other wildlife in the area.

Volunteers recorded 80 breeding pairs of terns using the Point Walter spit during the 2017–18 breeding season, which runs from October to January.

It is estimated that there are less than 1600 breeding pairs of fairy terns in Western Australia. They feed on small fish caught in shallow inshore waters.

Learn more about [beach nesting birds](#) and what can be done to help protect them.



*Above* Signs on Point Walter sand spit. *Top* Fairy terns. Photos – Leanne Beavis.

# Want to help wildlife? Keen to volunteer?



The Wildcare Helpline 9474 9055 is a telephone referral service operated by volunteers on behalf of the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA), based in Kensington.

The Wildcare Helpline provides a service for the public who find sick or injured native wildlife and are seeking advice on how and where to find care for the animal.

Contact DBCA on 9219 8279 or [community@dbca.wa.gov.au](mailto:community@dbca.wa.gov.au) to find out more.



## What you will receive:

- On-the-job training
- Ongoing support in a friendly office environment
- After training, there may be some opportunities to volunteer from home

Please note: there is no direct contact with wildlife with this role.

## What you need to be a Wildcare Helpline volunteer:

- patience
- a clear telephone voice
- enjoy talking to people
- a calm disposition
- basic keyboard/computer skills (desirable)
- Wildlife knowledge is not essential, but a desire to help native wildlife is



[dbca.wa.gov.au/about-us/contact-us/wildcare-helpline](http://dbca.wa.gov.au/about-us/contact-us/wildcare-helpline)



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# Registrations open for Great Cocky Count

The *Great Cocky Count* is a long-term citizen science survey and the biggest single survey for black cockatoos in Western Australia.

On one evening in autumn, volunteers monitor hundreds of known roost sites and count black cockatoos as they fly in to roost. Records from across the south-west provide a snapshot of black cockatoo populations, and over time this has helped quantify changes in numbers.

The *Great Cocky Count* originally started as a survey method for Carnaby's cockatoo and focussed on roost sites around the Perth metropolitan area. In recent years, the survey has expanded to include forest red-tailed cockatoos as well as sites across the south-west. This will be the 10th *Great Cocky Count*.

A key aim of the count is to survey as many roost sites as possible. BirdLife Australia needs your help to make the 2018 cocky count the most comprehensive survey yet. The *Great Cocky Count* will be on Sunday 8 April at sunset (about 5.30-6.30pm in Perth).

## What you can do

### 1. Report a roost site

Help identify more roost sites for both white-tailed and red-tailed black cockatoos. Roosts are places where the birds rest at night. Important information on the location of critical roosting habitat is collected through the count and is increasing each year. If you know of a night-time roost site, please let [BirdLife](#) know about it.



*Carnaby's black cockatoos. Photo – Rick Dawson.*

### 2. Register to monitor a roost site for the 2018 *Great Cocky Count*

Anyone interested in participating needs to register. There will be several hundred sites to monitor, so your help will be invaluable. [Registrations](#) are open and close on Sunday March 19.

### 3. Spread the word about the *Great Cocky Count* and encourage friends and family to get involved

For more information about the count, or to let BirdLife know about a roost site for either white-tailed or red-tailed black cockatoos, contact:

**Contact Great Cocky Count coordinator, BirdLife Australia:**  
**Peregrine House, 167 Perry Lakes Drive, Floreat, WA 6014**  
**Phone: 9287 2251**  
**Email: [greatcockycount@birdlife.org.au](mailto:greatcockycount@birdlife.org.au).**

## Identification app to put frogs on the map

**FrogID is Australia's first national citizen science frog identification initiative – a project led by the Australian Museum in partnership with Australia's leading natural history museums and IBM.**

Use the app to create a profile, record frog calls and match your calls to the frog calls on the app. Then upload your records to the Australian Museum frog experts for species verification.

Find out which frogs live near you and put more frog species on the map, track changes in species and habitats over time, and help monitor our waterways health.

**Download free from the [Apple iTunes](#) or [Google Play](#) stores.**



# Campground Host vacancies 2018

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 about becoming a volunteer campground host [visit the website](#).

## Donnelly District

**Warren National Park** (Draftys) – March, April

**Big Brook Forest** (Arboretum) – April

**Shannon National Park** – March, May

Contact: Ranger Tracey Robins

Telephone: (08) 9776 1207

Email: [tracey.robins@dbca.wa.gov.au](mailto:tracey.robins@dbca.wa.gov.au)

## Blackwood District

**Blackwood River National Park** (Sues Bridge, Warner Glen), **Rapids Conservation Park** (Canebrake), **St John Brook Conservation Park** (Workmans Pool, Barrabup Campground) – from now till the end of 2018

**Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park** (Jarrahdene) – from the end of March

**Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park** (Contos) – April to October

Contact: Ranger John Prins

Email: [john.prins@dbca.wa.gov.au](mailto:john.prins@dbca.wa.gov.au)

Telephone: 0429 319 200

## Pilbara Region

**Millstream Chichester National Park**

Miliyanha Campground – September

Stargazers Campground – April, May, July, September

Contact: Senior ranger Kate McNicol

Email: [kate.mcnicol@dbca.wa.gov.au](mailto:kate.mcnicol@dbca.wa.gov.au)

Telephone: (08) 9184 5144

## Swan Region

**Yalgorup National Park** – July, August, September

Contact: Ranger Ben Byrne

Email: [ben.byrne@dbca.wa.gov.au](mailto:ben.byrne@dbca.wa.gov.au)

Telephone: 0419 973 414



*A campground host 'office' in Coalseam Conservation Park.  
Photo - Sue Laughton.*

## East Kimberley District

**Purnululu National Park**

Walardi Campground – June, July, August, September

Kurrajong Campground – May, June, July, August, September

Contact: Senior ranger Georg Wandrag

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

Telephone: (08) 9168 7300

## West Kimberley District

Geikie Gorge National Park – August, September

Windjana Gorge National Park – May, August

King Leopold Ranges Conservation Park (Silent Grove) – August

Contact: Senior operations officer Dave Woods

Email: [david.woods@dbca.wa.gov.au](mailto:david.woods@dbca.wa.gov.au)

Telephone: (08) 9195 5500

## Looking further ahead...

**Penguin Island** – January, March, April, May 2019.

Email: [murray.banks@dbca.wa.gov.au](mailto:murray.banks@dbca.wa.gov.au) or [stephen.goodlich@dbca.wa.gov.au](mailto:stephen.goodlich@dbca.wa.gov.au)

# New look for volunteer opportunities search

Finding opportunities to get involved with the rehabilitation, care and management of WA's fauna and flora is now easier than ever no matter where you are in the State.

With the new-look projects map on our [website](#) you can now easily see where current projects are across WA and get summary information and contact details for each project by clicking on the icons.

Please be aware that some placements may not always be available. Opportunities with seasonal and one-off projects may be advertised when they become available.

Most country regions also have seasonal projects that may not be listed, so please [contact regional Parks and Wildlife Service offices](#) for further information about their volunteer opportunities.

**For general volunteer information contact Volunteers and Community Unit on:**

**Phone: (08) 9219 8271**

**Email: [Community@dbca.wa.gov.au](mailto:Community@dbca.wa.gov.au)**



*A new-look projects map is making finding volunteer opportunities easier than ever.*

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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