

National Volunteers Week

Next week 9 to 15 May is National Volunteers Week, this is a great opportunity to thank all the dedicated volunteers who help with a variety of projects throughout the Parks and Wildlife Service.

Volunteers assist on a regular basis at the Alice Springs Desert Park, the Territory Wildlife Park, the George Brown Botanical Gardens, the Herbarium, and Litchfield National park to name a few.

Other 'self sufficient' caravan volunteers have been great support for park rangers, especially those on more remote localities.

Thanks to all volunteers who have helped in any way throughout the past twelve months, your efforts are very much appreciated.

Casuarina Coastal Reserve Landcare Group

Casuarina Coastal Reserve Landcare Group want volunteers to help with the tree planting program on Casuarina Coastal Reserve. The next meeting is 15 May at Casuarina Free Beach from 4 – 6pm where volunteers will be helping to rehabilitate the sand dune area, for further details

Contact Geoff Gaskell
Home Phone: 08 8945 5825



Litchfield Visitor Survey

Litchfield National Park are conducting a visitor survey some time between June/ July, volunteers will be required to hand out surveys and assist visitors with the questionnaires. You can ring (or leave a recorded message).

Contact Kylie Edwards or Claire Harrington – 08 8976 0282

Ormiston Gorge Fauna Surveys

Ormiston Gorge is looking for volunteers for various fauna surveys for the busy tourist period of June and July. Accommodation and travel while doing the surveys will be provided. If you want to find out more information contact **Andrew Davies at Ormiston Gorge on 08 8956 7799.**

Turtle Hatchlings

If you would like to see little turtle hatchlings being released on Casuarina Beach some time between July and November contact Parks & Wildlife on 08 8999 4555. You will be placed on a waiting list and contacted when your name comes up.



Flatback Turtle

Thank you to Larrakia Nation

A big thank you to volunteers from Larrakia Nation and trainee rangers who have been working tirelessly on several projects, some of them listed below.

Removing low lying trees from Howard Springs Nature Park picnic area and waterhole.

Prescribed burning at Howard Springs Nature Park, Charles Darwin National Park and Holmes Jungle Nature

Brushcutting around planted trees on Casuarina Beach to minimise fire damage.

Construction of a fire unit rack at the Howard Springs Nature Park.

Removal of Coffee Bush from Tiwi Creek, Casuarina Coastal Reserve, near Royal Darwin Hospital.

Their efforts have been very much appreciated by the Parks staff.



Welcome, to another edition of the volunteer newsletter. It has been a busy past few months in the Parks and Wildlife office, with staff changes and many enquires regarding park access and tourism queries.

The Alice Springs region are hoping to attract some volunteers to their parks, particularly over the next few months when visitor numbers are high. There is more detailed information in this newsletter, so please contact them if you are interested.

I will be moving to a new position, and Kath Jefferies will be taking my place. I have really enjoyed the volunteer Coordinator role and I'm sure Kath will too.

Hope you take advantage of the next few months cooler weather and 'get out there' hiking, camping, volunteering whatever!

Kathy Carter Volunteer Coordinator
Ph:08 8999 4555

Email: VolunteerCoOrdDIPE@nt.gov.au



Park Ranger demonstrating to Volunteers how to Uproot Devil's Claw

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Devil's Claw Festival

The **Devil's Claw Festival is on again from 9 to 13 May 2005.** We need fit and enthusiastic volunteers who are interested in being involved in a very worthwhile environmental project.

The festival involves 5 days of walking remote waterways in search of Devil's Claw (a noxious weed). It is a great opportunity to get out in the bush, working alongside Rangers and experiencing some spectacular scenery. Food and transport within the park will be provided, but you will need your own camping gear. For more information or to register, call **Aaron Ledgard 08 8975 0833** or **Timber Creek Ranger Station on 8975 0888.**

DESERT PARKS LAY OUT WELCOME MAT FOR VOLUNTEERS

More and more people are discovering the delights of packing up their caravan and travelling around Australia. If your travel plans include a stint in Central Australia, perhaps you should consider becoming a caravan volunteer with the Parks and Wildlife Service of the Northern Territory.

As a 'vollie' you can stop at desert parks and participate in park life for a few weeks, giving you time to absorb all the wonders of the natural world in some of the Territory's most amazing - and often remote - locations. You will also be able to experience first-hand the unique lifestyle of Territory park rangers.

The Caravan Volunteer program is best suited to those with time up their sleeves. The program is not limited to those with caravans, as there may be basic accommodation available at some locations, as well as opportunities for camping. In exchange for your volunteer work, you will enjoy a genuine Outback adventure and the reward of giving something back to the landscape.

As well as campground hosting, volunteers can help with track maintenance, weed programs, hazard reduction burning and lots more. Rangers will also help 'vollies' find other activities to suit their interests, experience and fitness.

For instance, in the Central Australian region caravanners can make their way around the Mereenie Loop from King's Canyon to Palm Valley, or can opt to spend time in the MacDonnell Ranges, both east and west of Alice Springs.

Finke Gorge National Park (Palm Valley) is one example of a park desperately in need of 'vollies', in particular to help rangers look after the tranquil campground on the banks of Palm Creek. Campground facilities include power, water, hot showers and fireplaces.

In your spare time you could explore the

oasis of Palm Valley and the Desert Rivers environment of the Finke River. Boggy Hole, on the Finke River, is an excellent place for spotting water birds or just to relax. As the park is 4WD access-only it also has the feel of an isolated bush setting with the convenience of a store at the nearby Hermannsburg community.

Watarrka National Park (King's Canyon) is another location always in need of extra hands. Also situated on the Mereenie Loop Road, Watarrka is about 310km from Alice Springs and provides space for vans with on-site power, toilets, hot showers and a spectacular desert sunset across the dunes. While there, enjoy some great walks including the spectacular Rim Top Walk. This location also offers the convenience of a resort nearby for supplies and meals.

Ormiston Gorge, situated in the heart of the West MacDonnell Ranges approximately 140km west of Alice Springs, is also keen to recruit caravan vollies. There are a variety of walks and great opportunities for bird watching. Ormiston Gorge is also a good base for those wanting to walk sections of the Larapinta walking trail and has a resort nearby for meals and basic supplies.

Those planning to visit the East MacDonnell Ranges should consider spending time at scenic Trepina Gorge (80km east of Alice), where the small team of rangers is in regular need of vollies to help them manage visitor facilities. Trepina Gorge is an ideal base to explore other parks and reserves in the East MacDonnells including Arltunga Historical Reserve and Ruby Gap Nature Park.

For more information about caravan



volunteer opportunities in Central Australia, please call the rangers of the respective parks (leave a message if unattended) for further information.

Finke Gorge	08 8956 7401
Watarrka	08 8956 7488
Ormiston Gorge	08 8956 7799
Trepina Gorge	08 8956 9765

Parks in the Territory's Top End also operate volunteer programs. For more details on all the programs or to obtain volunteer registration forms, contact Volunteer Coordinator on 08-8999 4555 or email VolunteerCoOrd.DIPE@nt.gov

Registration forms can also be obtained from the individual parks or downloaded at http://www.nt.gov.au/ipe/pwcnt/docs/Interest_and_Registration_Form.pdf.

Similar volunteer activities are also available in other States, with parks organisations in South Australia and Western Australia offering Campground Host programs. For further information on these, please contact:

WA: Marg Butland (CALM) 08-8124 4700

SA: Pam Smith (DEH) 08-9334 0251



Darwin Parks - Prescribed Burning

Darwin parks rangers are organising some prescribed burning at Shoal Bay, Knuckey Lagoons and Holmes Jungle Nature Park. If you have completed fire training it may be good to put those skills into practice. If you would like to be involved please

Contact Paul Cawood-0408 084 726



Herbarium Needs Volunteers

The Herbarium, located on the ground floor of the Gaymark building in Palmerston, is asking for volunteers to help with a variety of tasks, these include database entry and mounting of specimens. If you have any particular skills or interests, special projects can be arranged to suit your skills.

Contact Dale Dixon - 08 8999 4512



Volunteer Profile



Name: Eric Hurwood

Where and when have you volunteered?

I volunteer at the Herbarium in Palmerston on a regular basis. I usually do 3 to 4 hours a week.

Why did you volunteer?

To meet people and learn new skills. I am retired so I have the time and I wanted to do something that kept my mind active.

How did you get there?

I use my own transport, I live in Palmerston so it's good to be able to volunteer close by.

What did you get out of it?

Broader plant knowledge and the chance to socialise. I was a fireman, in my working life, so this is something totally different.

Was there anything you would change about the experience if you could?

No I enjoy the work.

Would you do it again?

Yes I volunteer on a regular basis.