



JANUARY VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER

Womin Jeka! (Welcome)

Happy New Year! Welcome to the January 2024 - Volunteer Newsletter. To kick off what's sure to be another successful year of Volunteering at Nature Parks, we have lots of information to share.

Volunteer Christmas Party

In 2023, we came together to celebrate the holiday season at Phillip Island Golf Club. We enjoyed a delicious sit-down lunch, paired with great conversation about the past year of Volunteering. Thank you to everyone who came along, and to everyone that contributed Volunteer hours to the Nature Park's during 2023. Here are some happy snaps from the day.



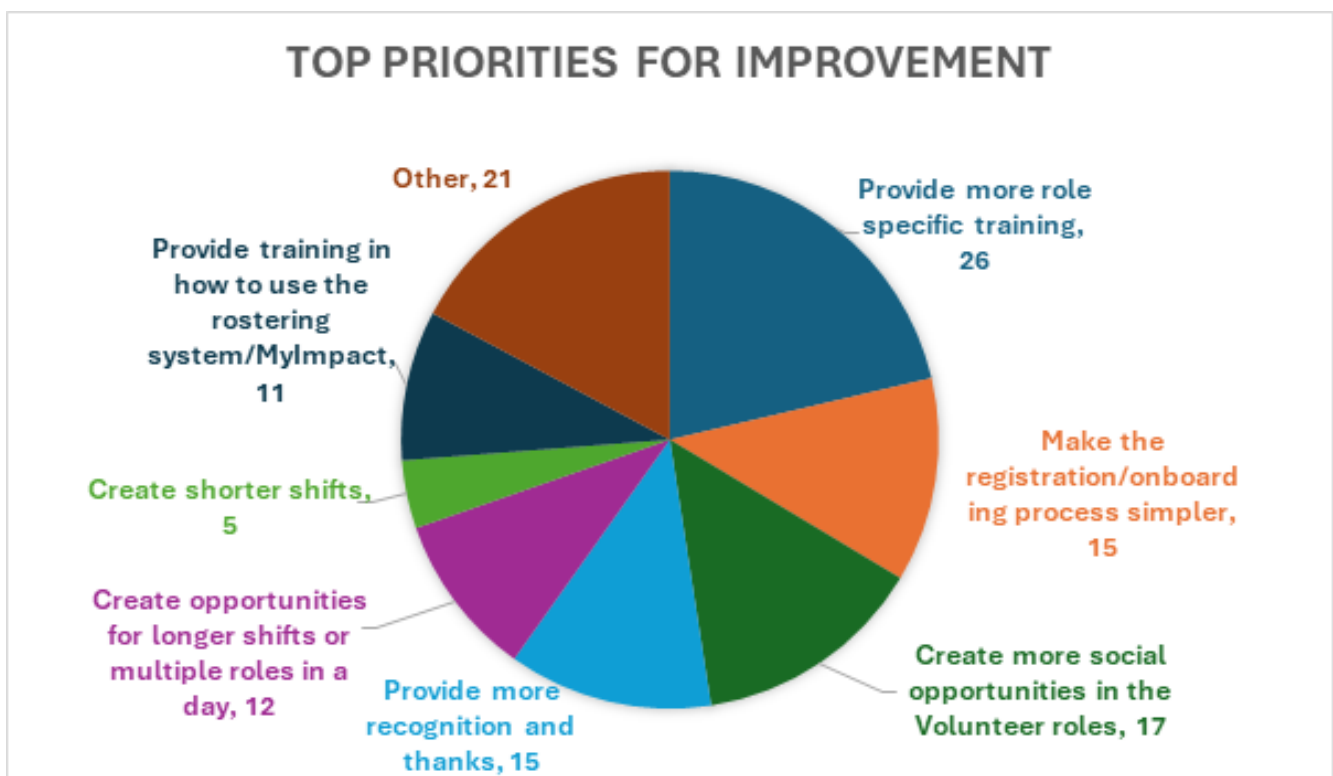
New Community Impact Team

Phillip Island Nature Parks recently went through an organisation structure change process, during which the Volunteer Coordinator and, therefore, the Volunteer Program, became a part of the newly formed *Community Impact Team*. See below for a message from Kate Adams, Community Impact Manager.

"Through the recent organisation structure change process, a new team dedicated to 'Community' was created and sits within the Conservation department. The team consists of myself as Community Impact Manager, Volunteer Coordinators, Kerri and Louise, and the Community Engagement Officer role which is currently vacant due to the recent departure of Sarah Hain. This team will focus on key areas of Volunteers, community engagement, community events and community partnerships, reconciliation, and accessibility. I look forward to leading the team to deliver programs and initiatives that strive to achieve conservation and tourism objectives for Nature Parks while promoting a positive and proactive standing within the community."

Annual Survey Update

Feedback is essential to the ongoing improvement of our Volunteer Program, and we're excited to have received 72 responses to the 2023 Annual Volunteer Survey. We want to share the results with a focus on feedback from Question 2 about *priorities for improvement*. Volunteers were asked to pick their top 3 priorities for areas in the Volunteering program that need improvement and we received 122 responses. The below graph shows the results.



This feedback, in conjunction with the total results, has led to the development of a plan to address the top priority areas identified. An example is we have reviewed the purpose of the Volunteer Working Group and plan to transform it into a *Volunteer Advisory Group*. The aim is to have a group consisting of staff and Volunteers that can provide reliable feedback on behalf of the broader Volunteer team to plan actions that will improve how we develop, deliver and manage Volunteering at Nature Parks.

We are also developing a Volunteer Calander which will be included in the monthly newsletter with key events in the upcoming months. We hope this initiative will assist in improving recognition, training and support, connectivity, and communication. As a team, we hope to continue making changes such as these to improve your Volunteering experience at Nature Parks.

Volunteer Advisory Group

The Volunteer Working Group began with the aim of increasing Volunteer numbers and over the past 5 years we've seen much change. In response to this, we've had to change as an organisation and subsequently our focus for Volunteering now needs to align with our organisational values and future strategic directions. The aim of the Volunteer Advisory Group is to provide a creative platform where members from a range of Volunteer teams can provide feedback and advice and be a conduit for Volunteers to raise matters relevant to Volunteering.

To be successful, we need feedback and input from Volunteers to ensure we can manage and deliver a safe, rewarding, and enjoyable Volunteer experience. If this is something you are interested in being a part of, we encourage you to submit an **expression of interest** form (attached) to volunteers@penguins.org.au by **15 January 2024**. See the Terms of Reference (attached) for more information.

2024 Volunteer Calendar

To improve communication with Volunteers, we have developed a Volunteer Calander for 2024. Each month, you will see upcoming events including Volunteer Coordinator visits to sites, learning and development opportunities, upcoming inductions, social activities, events, and meetings. We are also going to trial '*drop-in sessions*' where Kerri or Louise will be available in the KCR office for Volunteers to come in and get help with My Impact, ask questions, or just have a cuppa and a chat.

The calendar will be distributed monthly via the Volunteer Newsletter.

Also included are key dates for requesting name badges and uniforms. Only Volunteers that have been consistently Volunteering for three or more months are eligible for these items, and uniforms are only given to Volunteers in visitor-facing roles. Please note the two cut-off dates for requesting a name badge or uniform. Requests can be made by emailing volunteers@penguins.org.au

If you receive the newsletter but no longer Volunteer, we'd appreciate it if you could return any uniform items to the KCR office during a drop-in session (refer to the calendar).

Note: All uniform items remain the property of Nature Parks and must be returned if you cease Volunteering with us. Uniform must only be worn while on shift as a Nature Parks' Volunteer.

Please see below the calendar for January and February.

January 2024

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
1	2	3 Volunteer Coordinator visit BMBB 12.00	4	5	6	7
New Year's Day						
8	9	10 Kerri available at KCR office 10-12	11	12 Louise available at KCR office 1-3	13	14
15	16 Volunteer Coordinator visit CI 12.00	17	18 Louise available at KCR office 1-3	19 Volunteer Coordinator visit CI 12.00	20 Tunmerinnerwait Maulboyheenner Commemoration	21
22	23	24	25 Kerri available at KCR office 10-12	26 Due date name badge and uniform requests	27	28
29	30	31 Volunteer Coordinator visit BMBB 12.00	1	2	3	4
5	6	Notes	email: volunteers@penguins.org.au			

February 2024

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
29	30	31	1 Volunteer Coordinator visit BMBB 12.00	2	3	4
5	6 Volunteer Advisory Group meeting 1.00pm (TBA)	7	8	9 Induction: Visitor Experience TBA	10	11
12 Kerri available at KCR office 10-12	13 Volunteer open meeting RSVP (via MyImpact schedule)	14 Volunteer Coordinator visit CI 12.00	15	16	17	18
19	20 Volunteer open meeting 2.00-5.00 PP	21	22	23 Due date name badge and uniform requests via email	24	25
26	27 Kerri available at KCR office 10-12	28	29 Information session: TBA	1	2	3
4	5	Notes	email: volunteers@penguins.org.au			

A Sheep is Shorn – A story from Churchill Island

Please read below a story from Andrea Cleeland, Museum Curator on Churchill Island:

Robyn Holman has been an outstanding Volunteer with Churchill Island for over 40 years. You may have seen her demonstrate the wonderful craft of spinning wool in our Shearing Shed.

Robyn grabbed the opportunity to work with 10 kilograms of fleece that came from just one sheep shorn on Churchill Island! The Corriedale sheep from Grantville had not been shorn in two years and eventually was shorn on Churchill Island during the first COVID lockdown.

Robyn recalled how Pete Officer rang her up and asked her to come and have a look at this magnificent fleece. Robyn felt quite privileged to be able to access Churchill Island, which was closed to the public at the time, and have a look at three fleeces shorn from three different sheep.

Taking two of the three fleeces home, Robyn set to work spinning the first fleece into magnificent yarn. After the process of spinning, Robyn washed the hanks of wool and recalled them looking very impressive, drying on the line. She went on to say, "It took me three weeks of concerted spinning to make a kilo of wool yarn which amounted to 17 balls of wool. You need approx. a kilo of wool for one jumper. It takes me a couple of months to knit a jumper. From the same fleece I then knitted multiple beanies and two other jumpers.

" An interesting fact: Homespun wool is usually 2 single threads plied together. The length of single thread spun for this jumper amounts to approximately 3 kilometres of hand spun wool! I still have the second fleece to go!"

We are very lucky to have Robyn share the wonderful craft of spinning that she learnt from an old friend on a farm at San Remo, many years ago. Robyn is one of a group of dedicated and passionate Volunteers at Churchill Island who brings old time craft, lost trades and history of the island into the present day.



Tunnerminnerwait Maulboyheenner Commemoration

The Bass Coast Reconciliation Networks will be hosting the Tunnerminnerwait Maulboyheenner Commemoration on Saturday 20th January 2024.

Join us in commemorating the lives of Tunnerminnerwait and Maulboyheenner, two Tasmanian Aboriginal men who were publicly hanged in Melbourne in 1842. These men were wrongfully convicted for the murder of two whale-hunters in the Western Port area and on 20 January 1842, and became the first people hanged in Melbourne. At the time they were labelled 'blood thirsty outlaws' but are now recognised as freedom fighters resisting colonial occupation and injustices.

Join us at **9.45am for a 10am start on Saturday 20 January 2024** at Wonthaggi's Wishart Reserve to honour the two men and acknowledge the injustice dealt to them and all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples during colonisation.

There will be a Welcome to Country and Smoking ceremony followed by guest speakers and a gathering together to remember. Light refreshments will be provided.

Bass Coast Reconciliation Network has members from Bass Coast Shire Council, Bass Coast Health, Westernport Water, My Community Libraries, Phillip Island Nature Parks, Bunurong Land Council, Bass Coast South Gippsland Reconciliation Group and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community members and is pleased to see organisations come together with the community to acknowledge and celebrate this important date of significance.

BASS COAST SOUTH GIPPSLAND RECONCILIATION GROUP
Invites you to a gathering in memory of

Tunnerminnerwait & Maulboyheenner

Captured nearby at Harmers Haven, they became the first people hanged in Victoria on 20 January 1842.
Join with us to commemorate their lives.

SATURDAY 20 JANUARY | 10AM-12PM
WISHART RESERVE, WONTHAGGI

WELCOME TO COUNTRY
SMOKING CEREMONY
TRUTH TELLING
ALL ARE WELCOME

This event is proudly supported by the Bass Coast Reconciliation Network:

NATURE PARKS WESTERNPORT WATER BCH BASS COAST
Bunurong Land Council myli West Gippsland
ADJUTANT GENERAL CORPORATION my community library Coastal Management Network

Enquiries to Marg Lynn 0419 361 039

Thank you for reading, and Happy New Year!