

# The Volunteer DIFFERENCE



## FEBRUARY VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER

### **Womin Jeka! (Welcome)**

Welcome to the February 2024 Volunteer Newsletter. Volunteers contributed over 600 hours in January, and we'd like to pass a thankyou on to you all for your support over an incredible peak period. February looks to be a busy month, so let's get into it!

### **Future Focus Meeting**

We're excited to invite all active Volunteers to join us at the first open meeting, which is themed 'Future Focus Volunteering'.

Date: Tuesday 20 February

Time: 2-5pm

Venue: Penguin Parade, Education rooms

Please check your inbox for an invite and further details. The invite was sent to Volunteers that have contributed 1 or more hours to the Nature Parks over the past 12 months but if you are interested in coming along, please email [volunteers@penguins.org.au](mailto:volunteers@penguins.org.au)

We will provide updates on Nature Parks' organisation structure, strategic planning, and Volunteer initiatives. We're dedicated to providing a quality experience for Volunteers and we want to ensure our programs continue to contribute to key conservation and tourism outcomes. Your input is vital and this meeting is an opportunity for Volunteers to contribute, share ideas and give feedback into relevant matters such as social activities, training and more.

### **Volunteer Opportunity – Curlew Custodian**

Phillip Island Nature Parks is leading a threatened species program which aims to establish a self-sustaining wild population of Bush stone-curlews on Phillip Island (Morrow). There are two aviaries housing curlews at the Koala Conservation Reserve, and a dedicated team of *Curlew Custodian* Volunteers help to care for the curlews by assisting with their feeding and monitoring.

We are currently looking to expand this team, and have an **induction session planned for Thursday 29 February, from 2:00-4:00pm in the Chisholm Room at the Koala Conservation Reserve**. If you don't mind handling insects and raw meat, and love working with wildlife, this role might be for you! There are limited spots available for this session, so if you'd like to come along, please sign up to the Curlew Custodians – Induction activity on My Impact.



*Volunteer Bruce Watering in a curliew Aviary.*



*Volunteer Bruce delivering the curliew feed.*

### **New Visitor Experience Volunteers at the Koala Conservation Reserve**

Visitor Experience Volunteers play an important role in protecting nature for wildlife and inspiring visitors to act for conservation. Over the last six weeks, we've inducted nine new Visitor Experience Volunteers and we have to thank existing members of the KCR Visitor Experience Volunteer team for helping with buddy shifts, and sharing their time and knowledge with the new Volunteers.



*Volunteers Jenna and Elisabeth at the KCR.*



*Volunteer Jenna topping up water for Koala feed.*



*Volunteer Aaron topping up water for Koala feed.*

## Beach Nesting Birds Internship Students

This summer, the Nature Parks has had two internship students from Deakin University assisting with the annual Beach Nesting Birds monitoring program. Internship Supervisor, Ranger Jon Fallaw tells us about the work they've been doing and how it contributes to conservation work.

*“About half of all hooded plover nests fail with no identified cause. The focus of Lily and Luke’s internship is to use remote cameras to identify the unexplained reasons for nest failures. Lily started in November and has been involved in the hooded plover and gull survey, and snipe survey and both Lily and Luke have been monitoring fairy terns at Observation Point and crested terns at the Nobbies. Luke started in January and hit the ground running as the hooded plover season was in full swing, monitoring new nests and chicks. Luke will finish the cataloguing of images and finalise findings for the season overall. Their contribution provides Nature Parks with important insights and research data into nesting shorebirds on Phillip Island (Mallow!).”*



*Intern Luke and Research Officer Meagan monitoring nesting shorebirds.*



*Intern Lily setting up remote cameras to monitor nesting shorebirds.*

## Volunteer Advisory Group – Welcome to our newest members!

Our Volunteer Advisory Group is officially up and running, with seven members on board and our first meeting planned for early February. 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.

Thank you to everyone who expressed their interest in being a part of this group, the Volunteer members are:

- **Bill Young** – Previously a member of the Volunteer Working Group and a long-term Nature Parks Volunteer across multiple roles.

- **Brian Holden** – Previously a member of the Volunteer Working Group and a long-term Nature Parks Volunteer across multiple roles.
- **Kim Poole** – a relatively new Nature Parks Volunteer in our Barb Martin Bush Bank, but really clocking up the hours.
- **Ruth Scott** – a long term Nature Parks Volunteer at Churchill Island and currently exploring new opportunities at the Koala Conservation Reserve.
- **Steve Kirkbright** – a relatively new Nature Parks Volunteer, exploring roles and currently spending time at the Koala Conservation Reserve.
- **Peter Wagstaff** – a long term Nature Parks Volunteer across multiple roles, often found on the Nobbies boardwalks.
- **Jan Cox** – a long term Nature Parks Volunteer at the Koala Conservation Reserve and Wildlife Clinic.

We will introduce each member in future Newsletters, so you know who they are, and we encourage you to connect with them to discuss any Volunteering matters. As your representatives, they can bring those matters to the group for consideration and action.

### Farewell to Turn the Tide

In reviewing current programs, we've recently made the decision to no longer facilitate the Turn the Tide Volunteer program and we would like to acknowledge the contributions made by the Turn the Tide Volunteers.

Developed in 2018, in partnership with Zoos Victoria for the 'When Balloons Fly, Sea Birds Die' campaign, the continuous efforts of 54 passionate and dedicated Volunteers have contributed to the Australian Marine Debris Initiative (AMDI) database and the Phillip Island Nature Parks 'Bins on Boats' research and action.

This program has removed thousands of kilograms of waste from Phillip Island's beaches, and this alone demonstrates the incredible success of this team in protecting nature for wildlife. We hope this great work can continue with Clean Up Australia as they also have a wonderful Volunteer program.



*Volunteers Ilse, Melissa, Susie and Rod completing a beach clean on the Summerland Peninsula.*

## Volunteer Calendar for February and March

### 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	7 Volunteer Coordinator visit BMBB 2:00	8 Kerri available at KCR office 10-12	9	10	11
12 Kerri available at KCR office 10-12	13 cut off for RSVP for Future Focus meeting via MyImpact	14 Volunteer Coordinator visit CI 12.00	15 Louise available KCR office 1-3	16	17	18
19	20 Future Focus meeting 2.00-5.00 PP	21	22	23 Due date name badge and uniform requests via email	24	25
26 Volunteer Coordinator visit CI 12.00	27 Kerri available at KCR office 10-12	28	29 Information session: Curlew Custodian 2- 4pm Koala Conservation Reserve	1	2	3

### March 2024

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
26	27	28	29	1 Louise available KCR office 1-3	2	3
4	5	6 Volunteer Coordinator visit BMBB 12:00	7 Volunteer Coordinator visit BMBB 12:00	8 International Womens Day event (more details to come)	9	10
11	12	13	14	15 Louise available KCR office 1-3	16	17
<b>Public Holiday</b>						
18	19 Kerri available at KCR office 10-12	20 Volunteer Coordinator visit CI 12.00	21	22	23	24
25 Volunteer Coordinator visit CI 12.00	26	27 Information Session: Visitor Experience Volunteer Churchill Island 10.30(TBC)	28 Kerri available at KCR office 10-12	29 Due date name badge and uniform requests	30	31

Thanks for reading!