



## (MARCH) VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER

### *Womin Jeka!* (Welcome)

Welcome to the March 2024 Volunteer Newsletter. We apologise for the delay in this month's edition. It's been a busy month with plenty of news to share, so let's get into it.

### **Volunteer Induction 27 March - Visitor Experience Churchill Island**

Do you enjoy learning and sharing history? We are holding an induction for Visitor Experience Volunteers at Churchill Island. The role involves engaging visitors and sharing information about the heritage and what to do on Churchill Island. Volunteers can choose to get into the spirit of the Island by dressing in period costume (supplied) or dress in our regular volunteer uniform. Shifts are 10.00am – 12.30pm or 1.00pm to 4.00pm daily. We require a commitment of at least one shift per month, but otherwise allow volunteers to self-schedule subject to their availability.

The induction will include an overview of Churchill Island history, a tour of the farm, OHS induction and how to sign up for shifts. Once the induction is completed, if you choose to sign up, we will organise 'buddy shifts' until you feel comfortable going solo.

We will also assist in signing you up to My Impact, our volunteer management software, if you do not already have an existing profile.

**Where:** Churchill Island Visitor Centre

**When:** 27 March 2024

**Time:** 10.30am - 12.30pm (approx)

**What should I bring:** Working with Children Check Card, water bottle, weather appropriate clothing

If you are interested, please sign up to the Learning and Development - Visitor Experience – Churchill Island – Induction activity on My Impact, or email [volunteers@penguins.org.au](mailto:volunteers@penguins.org.au)

### **Reconciliation Update March 2024**

The Nature Parks is privileged to manage the Crown Land that forms part of the traditional lands of the Bunurong and acknowledges that the land, waters and sea are of spiritual, cultural and economic importance to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Click on <https://www.penguins.org.au/assets/About/RAP/2403-RAP-Update.pdf> to view our latest Reconciliation Update.

## Farewell to Kim the Koala

Please see below a note from Senior Wildlife Ranger, Lachie.

*It is with great sadness that I let you know Kim our oldest koala was euthanized last month at the age of 18 years. Meg now takes the title of the oldest koala at the Koala Conservation Reserve at 15 years of age, although Han and Les also fall under the same age bracket, as they were all joeys in the same season.*



*Kim the Koala, in her prime.*

## Goodbye to Lily, Cameras in Conservation Intern

Over Summer, the Nature Parks was lucky to have Deakin University student Lily on board, working as a Cameras in Conservation intern. The focus of Lily's work was identifying reasons for previously unexplained hooded plover nest failures. In February, Lily was farewelled with an afternoon tea and thank you gifts for her amazing contributions to the nesting shorebirds team.



*Group Shot at Lily's Farewell*



*Intern Lily receiving her gift from Jon Fallaw*

## Future Focus – Open Volunteer Meeting

In February, we hosted an open meeting for all active volunteers with the theme 'Future Focus Volunteering'. The meeting was well attended, with updates shared on the Nature Parks' organisational structure, strategic planning, and volunteer initiatives. We were joined by Catherine Basterfield (CEO) and Jess McKelson (General Manager Conservation) who assisted in running breakout sessions and engaged the group in constructive conversation. We will now work to collate the feedback from this meeting and the accompanying survey and will include a summary of this in next month's newsletter. Thank you to everyone that came along and participated on the day.



CEO Catherine Basterfield presenting to the volunteer team.



Volunteers participating in breakout sessions.



Volunteers providing feedback on strategic planning.

### Updates to My Impact

In February, we (Kerri and Louise) were lucky to be joined in the office by Better Impact Certified Consultant, Christine. We spent time developing our understanding of the software system, making changes, and planning improvements. We ask for your patience over the coming months as we work through the system to improve its efficiency and effectiveness within our volunteer program.



From Left: Louise, Christine, and Kerri.

### Community Engagement Officer

The team says woinin jeka to the newest member of the Community team, Andrea Cleland, as she commenced in the Community Engagement Officer role this week. Andrea will be busy working on community engagement campaigns and events, supporting community committees, managing our donations and sponsorships program, and writing strategic communications to share our conservation and research achievements.



*Andrea Cleland, Community Engagement Officer*

### Easter Fun Festival at Churchill Island

29th March – 1st April 2024 (Friday through Monday)

The Easter Fun Festival at Churchill Island is a vibrant and engaging event during the Easter weekend, action packed with great activities for visitors to provide a fun and educational experience.

Activities include:

- Scavenger hunt – Bandicoots Bug Bonanza!
- Easter High Tea with Misty the Penguin
- Eastern Barred Bandicoot Tours
- Live Music featuring Nick Cunningham (Sunday only) and performances by other talented artists from midday each day
- Face painting
- Chainsaw Carving demonstrations on Saturday & Sunday
- BBQ, Bake Sale, Aperol Spritz garden & beverages available from the farm precinct
- Kids nature art & pot a plant workshop
- Multiple sessions of farm activities
- Old-time games

For more information go to [Churchill Island Activities | Phillip Island Nature Parks \(penguins.org.au\)](https://penguins.org.au)

If you want to get involved on the day, check out the Easter Fun Fest activity on My Impact and sign up if you're interested and available. Please email [volunteers@penguins.org.au](mailto:volunteers@penguins.org.au) for more information.

## Volunteer Calendar for March and April

# 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 Public Holiday	12	13	14	15 Louise available KCR office 1-3	16	17
18	19 Kerri available at KCR office 10-12	20	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 Easter Fun Fest Churchill Island Public Holiday	30 Easter Fun Fest Churchill Island	31 Easter Fun Fest Churchill Island

# April 2024

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
1 Easter Fun Fest Churchill Island Public Holiday	2 Volunteer Advisory Group meeting	3	4 Kerri available at KCR office 10-12	5	6	7
8	9 Kerri available at KCR office 10-12	10	11	12 Volunteer Coordinator visit CI 12.00	13	14
15	16 TBC Induction Penguin Parade 6.00-8.00pm	17 Volunteer Coordinator visit CI 12.00	18 Louise available at KCR office 1-3	19	20	21
22	23	24 Kerri available at KCR office 10-12	25 Public Holiday	26 Due date name badge and uniform requests	27	28
29 Volunteer Coordinator visit CI 12.00	30	1	2	3	4	5

Thanks for reading!