

Department of Environment and Water staff and volunteers recognised in Rotary Club of Burnside Park Awards

Around 80 people attended the presentation dinner for the Rotary Club of Burnside's Volunteer of the Parks Awards, and Leadership in Conservation, on Wednesday, 18 May.

The Parks Awards set out to recognise both paid service and volunteer activities of those looking after our National Parks.

Bob Cooper, past District Governor, opened proceedings and welcomed all. The invocation and loyal toast was given by Rotarian Dave Harrison. President of the awards selection committee, David Dewar, introduced the guests and read the apologies.

Bob Cooper gave a history of the awards, which have been presented since 1983 (formerly Ranger of the Year) and in 1988, the Volunteer of the Parks award was introduced. Twelve nominations had been received for both categories. Bob mentioned that the timing of the event was very appropriate, as this week is National Volunteer Week (16-22 May). Bob added that although there could only be one winner in each category, all nominees were actually winners, being nominated by their peers and volunteers.

Mike Williams, Director, National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Environment and Water, gave an address, representing the Hon Dr Susan Close MP, Minister for Climate, Environment and Water.



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Volunteer of the Parks

David Dewar introduced the Volunteer of the Parks Finalists:

- Trevor and Terrie Coleman, Toyota Landcruiser Club, Friends of the Innamincka Reserves, Campground Hosts
- Paul Shinks – Subaru 4WD Club
- Venita Bator, Friends of Naracoorte Caves, Friday Gardeners (apology)
- Wendy Easson, Friends of the Coorong
- Frank Gordon, Friends of Mount Remarkable National Park (apology)
- Liz Milner, Volunteer, Friends of Black Hill and Morialta Inc.
- Peter Watton, Friends of Scott Creek Conservation Park
- Amy Blaylock, Friends of Sturt Gorge Recreation Park
- Allan Cole, Cleland Wildlife Park Volunteers
- Tina and Wayne Gallasch, Friends of Old Government House
- Jim Egan, Southern Eyre Peninsula Parks
- Katie Welz, Kangaroo Island Wildlife Network (apology)

The winner of the Volunteer of the Parks Award was Wendy Easson, Friends of the Coorong. Dave Harrison read the citation. The plaque was presented by Rotary District Governor Jeff Neale, and Mike Williams. Wendy responded. All nominees received a Commendation Certificate.



Image L-R National Parks and Wildlife Executive Director Mike Williams, Volunteers of the Parks Award winner Wendy Easson from Friends of the Coorong and District Governor Jeff Neale.

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Leadership in Conservation

David Dewar introduced the Leadership in Conservation Finalists:

- Rob Brandle, Conservation Ecologist (apology)
- Rebecca Pudney, Senior Ranger, Riverland and Murraylands
- Tony Stevens, Senior Ranger, Riverland and Murraylands
- Stella Kondylas, District Ranger, Yorke
- Warrick Barnes, Senior Ranger, Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary National Park
- Anthony Abley, Conservation Ecologist, Black Hill Conservation Park (apology)
- Edan Schulze, Ranger, Granite Island
- Allira Taylor-Wilkins, Black Hill Conservation Park
- Rebecca Brown, Glenithorne National Park
- Dirk Holman, Marine Coordinator Western Eyre
- Nick Heath, Kelly Hill Caves Conservation Park (apology)

The winner of the Leadership in Conservation Award was Rebecca Pudney, Senior Ranger, Riverland and Murraylands. Dave Harrison read the citation. The plaque was presented by Rotary District Governor Jeff Neale, and Mike Williams. Bec responded All nominees received a Commendation Certificate.

The Hon, Vickie Chapman MP, Member for Bragg, gave a vote of thanks to the winners and finalists. President of the selection committee, David Dewar, also gave a vote of thanks.

Bob Cooper thanked David Dewar and the selection committee for the work done on selecting the winners. He thanked John Caddy for taking the photographs and organising the certificates which were designed by Tania Dalton. He thanked Pam Smith from the Volunteer and Visitor Programs Unit, National Parks and Wildlife Service, for her administrative support.

For more information about volunteering in our national Parks, contact Friends of Parks Admin Officer, Pam Smith, on (08) 8124 4784, or via email pamela.smith@sa.gov.au



Image L-R: National Parks and Wildlife Executive Director Mike Williams, Winner, Rebecca Pudney, Senior Ranger Riverland & Murraylands and District Governor Jeff Neale.

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