



Mark Speakman
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MEDIA RELEASE

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VOLUNTEERS A HUGE HELP FOR NATIONAL PARKS

Environment Minister Mark Speakman has paid tribute to the dedicated commitment made by more than 6,500 volunteers who help keep our national parks safe and beautiful.

“Our National Parks and Wildlife Services (NPWS) volunteers deliver an astounding 130,000 hours each year and deserve to be acknowledged during National Volunteer Week,” Mr Speakman said.

“To every volunteer, I say heartfelt thanks. NSW is certainly indebted by your contributions.

“There are fantastic volunteer programs at my local parks – Kamay Botany Bay National Park and Royal National Park. Enthusiastic volunteers can roll up their sleeves and get involved in bush generation.

“Volunteer numbers continue to increase each year and NPWS is well on its way to achieving Goal 24 of the NSW State Plan which will see at least 7,500 volunteers by the end of 2016.”

Volunteers participated in 210 different NPWS projects around the state last year including:

- Aboriginal cultural heritage: Rock Art Conservation;
- bush regeneration: Royal Bushie, Friends of Lane Cove, Arakoon bush care, La Perouse bush regen team;
- flora and fauna: Wildcount, Friends of the Brush-tailed Rock Wallaby;
- threatened species management: Monaro koala surveys, Stuttering frog surveys;
- culture and heritage conservation: Friends of Yanga, Friends of Roto House, Cape Byron Lighthouse;
- meet and greet hosts: campground host program;
- guided tours: Chase Alive, Sea Acres rainforest guides, Discovery volunteers;
- assisting in the protection of wildlife: Shorebird volunteers on South Coast; and
- recreational group partnerships: BMORC Woodford Oaks TrackCare Volunteers, 4WDA volunteers.

Mr Speakman encouraged anyone with an interest in the environment to contact their local NPWS office or to go online to see how they can become involved.

More information about volunteering in NSW National Parks can be found at <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/volunteers/ParkVolunteerPrograms.htm>.

National Volunteers Week is being celebrated this week 11-17 May.