

2018 Community Conservation Award

The award for 2018 was presented to Kanyana Wildlife Refuge, near Perth, Western Australia. This organisation has operated for over 40 years with the aid of a strong band of volunteers. The refuge rehabilitates many animals each year and conducts research into factors affecting local wildlife. It now has added a captive breeding program to its services. Kanyana has a strong school holiday program and works in collaboration with local universities to conduct research into factors affecting local wildlife. In recent years it has focused on research into parasites affecting wildlife and has been responsible for discovering previously unidentified parasites.

Acceptance speech from Helen Riley of Kanyana Wildlife Refuge

Thank you for inviting me to join you today. Congratulations on your 110th anniversary. I am honoured to accept the Community Conservation Award for 2018 on behalf of Kanyana Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre Inc. Our vision of Caring, Conserving and Connecting encompasses our aims of Wildlife Rehabilitation, Education, Endangered Species Breeding, and Research. This could not be achieved without the dedication of all our volunteers, both past and present. Currently, we have 380 volunteers and one paid Hospital Manager. We received 3,000 wildlife admissions last year, and on our busy days it has reached 30 admissions. Our volunteers range from 16 years old to 90 years old, all with different backgrounds and abilities. They volunteer through school via work experience, as individuals or different groups, e.g. Alzheimer's Association.

Kanyana is proud to be part of the National Bilby Breeding Program, and our success is contributing to the genetic diversity of the species. In November 2017, two of our male greater bilbies joined two bilbies from Alice Springs in a translocation to Australian Wildlife Conservancy's (AWC) Mt Gibson property. They were released into this enclosure to acclimatise before being released into a 7,800-hectare feral and predator-free fenced area. Updated information from monitoring is positive, with the bilbies being observed digging and foraging for food. The two Alice Springs females spent some time at Kanyana before their transfer to AWC.

Kanyana is also part of a breeding program for woylies (also known as brush-tailed bettongs); however, it is in the process of winding down. Once again, we have been very successful in our results. The genetics and breeding program is controlled by the Western Australian Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions. Successful breeding programs are limited to finding suitable release sites.

Education is important as conservation of wildlife is dependent on conservation of the environment.



Presentation of the Community Wildlife Conservation Award by Clive Williams to Helen Riley on Kanyana Wildlife Refuge.