

Conservation Matters

The elusive dibblers of Dirk Hartog Island National Park

Over the past year and a half, 57 dibblers bred at Perth Zoo have been reintroduced to Dirk Hartog Island by the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA). Dibblers are endangered and the fourth species to be translocated as part of the *Return to 1616* Ecological Restoration Project.



Whilst keeping track of the initially small numbers of these tiny carnivores is challenging, remote cameras have proved their value. Can you see the dingo in the bottom right of the photo? It has been attracted to a lure that contains a bait specially formulated to attract small animals which is held in the white pipe attached to a post in the centre of the image. This photo was captured near their release site nearly nine months after the first release. It caused great excitement amongst the DBCA team as it was the first remote camera image of dingoes since their reintroduction.

More translocations are planned in the future in order to boost population numbers, so stay tuned for more news!

Colour in Competition

Our annual *Return to 1616* colour in competition was again a difficult challenge to pick a winner. There were so many beautiful entries of Santa and his sack of presents bound for Dirk Hartog Island National Park along with all four native animal species that have already been returned to the island: the banded and rufous hare-wallaby, dibbler and Shark Bay bandicoot.

After much deliberation, prizes of the new *Return to 1616* Wild Challenge Card Game were presented by Denham Parks and Wildlife Ranger Dylan Isles to both Shanel and Brody for their amazingly colourful and detailed efforts.



Congratulations Shanel and Brody!



Scan this QR code to download and print out the *Return to 1616* Wild Challenge game and other cool *Return to 1616* activities.



Photo competition 2021

To celebrate the *Return to 1616* project's contribution to the plants and animal biodiversity in the Shark Bay World Heritage Area, Parks and Wildlife will be running a photo competition this year for the Denham community. Native plants, wildflowers, animals, animal tracks and signs are all eligible and there are some great prizes on offer, so get your cameras ready! More information coming in **March**.



Shark Bay Daisies – just one of the many entrants to the 2011 photo competition.

Newsletter



Keep up to date with the Dirk Hartog Island National Park *Return to 1616* Ecological Restoration Project with Wirruwana News.

You can pick up your Spring 2020 copy from:

- the Denham Parks and Wildlife Office,
- on the Sharkbay.org website: <https://www.sharkbay.org/news>, or
- follow this link to subscribe and automatically receive the newsletter twice a year: www.dpaw.wa.gov.au/news/newsletters.

We'd love to hear from anyone involved in activities on the island. If you have an experience of Dirk Hartog Island National Park to share, please contact Wendy on 9964 0901 or wendy.payne@dbca.wa.gov.au.