NATHEAND ENGINEERS REBUILDING AN ISLAND

With the removal of feral sheep and goats, plants are growing back, providing food and shelter. With the removal of feral cats, the island is safe for native animals. The Return to 1616 project has changed the island and 'paved the way' for the return of 13 native animal species over the next 10 years.

Reintroduction of native animals began with hare-wallabies in 2017. Each newly reintroduced animal is an "ecosystem engineer". Their daily activities such as hunting, eating, digging and producing droppings help to change the environment they live in.

Hunters

Carnivorous, top order predators, help to keep the numbers of other native animals in balance.

Excavators

These animals turn over and disturb soil when digging for food or excavating burrows. This helps to improve soil nutrients, wettability and fertility by aerating and mixing leaf litter into the soil.

Gardeners

Vegetarian or herbivorous animals are the "gardeners" of the island, pruning back and trimming the plants they eat.

Insect controllers

Insectivores act as nature's "insecticide" by eating insects that live in leaf litter and soil, and on plants. They recycle insects in their droppings, and in doing so, help to fertilise the soil.

Farmers

Seed eaters are the "unintentional farmers" of the island. They spread plants around by eating their seed and 'planting' them in their nutrient rich droppings.



POSITION DESCRIPTION

Position

Chuditch Hunter

Duties: · regulating the population of your co-workers by eating

POSITION DESCRIPTION

NAME: Position

Gardener

Duties:

· pruning and trimming



POSITION DESCRIPTION

Position

Shark Bay bandicoot Excavator Insect control

earthmoving for soil improvement

· eating insects



POSITION DESCRIPTION

Gardener

earthmoving for soil improvement

spreading, planting seed
pruning and trimming plants



POSITION DESCRIPTION

Boodie

Duties

earthmoving for soil improvement

 spreading, planting seed pruning and trimming plants



POSITION DESCRIPTION

Brush-tailed mulgara

Hunter Excavator Insect control

earthmoving for soil improvement

eating insects

· regulating the population



POSITION DESCRIPTION

NAME: Position

Dibbler

spreading, planting seed



POSITION DESCRIPTION

NAME: Position

Shark Bay mouse

Farmer Insect control

· spreading, planting seed · eating insects



POSITION DESCRIPTION

NAME:

Desert mouse

· spreading, planting seed



Greater stick-nest rai

· spreading, planting seed pruning and trimming plants



NAME Position

Heath mouse Farmer

Duties: · spreading, planting seed



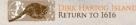
NAME: Position Duties

Western grasswren

Farmer Insect control

spreading, planting seed · eating insects





Gorgon Barrow Island Net Conservation Benefits Fund www.gorgon-ncb.org.au



Scan this QR code to find out more about the Dirk Hartog Island National Park Ecological Restoration Project - Return to 1616.