

## Volunteers help discover 13 unrecorded wildlife species

A biological survey of Winninowie Conservation Park has resulted in the discovery of 13 wildlife species previously unrecorded in the area.

The survey, undertaken by the Department for Environment and Heritage (DEH) with the assistance of local volunteers, uncovered the Bolams' Mouse, Inland Thornbill, two yet to be identified bat species and nine reptile species.

According to Anthony Pieck, DEH's Threatened Species Ecologist for the Northern and Yorke Region, the results highlight the high biodiversity value and ecological importance of this reserve.

"The Bolams' Mouse has not been recorded in this area before, so this extends the range of the species," he said.

"We also found a number of Fat Tailed Dunnarts, a small mammal which was previously only known from one uncertain record that is 23 years old, so it's certainly exciting to confirm that they exist in the area."

According to Kerri Villiers, DEH's Northern and Yorke Senior Volunteer Support Ranger, DEH staff and volunteers spent four days exploring the park's tidal creeks, coastal dunes and woodlands collecting information about the plants, birds, reptiles and mammals that are found in this coastal location.

"The involvement of a large group of volunteers with such a diverse range of skills, knowledge and interests has been instrumental to the success of this survey," she said.

"Volunteers, many from the Biodiversity and Endangered Species Team (BEST) and Friends of Mount Remarkable National Park, made an enormous and valuable contribution to this survey.

"We simply could not achieve these results without their support."

This project was supported by the Northern and Yorke Natural Resources Management Board as well as a Volunteer Support Grant from DEH.

Anyone interested in volunteering to help protect the natural and cultural values of the Northern and Yorke region should contact the Volunteer Support Ranger on 8841 3446 or their local DEH Office.

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