

New visitor centre opens

TWO volunteers were recognised for 10 years of service when Whiteman Park marked International Volunteer Day.

The 4000ha park's new Visitor Information Centre was officially opened on the same day and there was recognition of the hundreds of people who regularly donate their time, skills, knowledge and expertise to support the park's daily operations.

When opening the new centre, Planning Minister John Day paid tribute to the more than 550 people who volunteer their services across the park, which was named after Lew Whiteman.

"This year alone, volunteers have donated about 4000 hours to ensure the park runs smoothly every day," he said.

"This is in addition to the work of volunteers across a range of organisations that add to the amenity and natural experience of the park."

Mr Day acknowledged Des Noonan of Helena Valley and Ellen Bradley of Jane Brook who have volunteered for 10 years, delivering 960 Whiteman Explorer Tours between them.

"Many of the park's tours, including the Down Memory Lane program, Whiteman Explorer Tour and the Nocturnal Woylie Walks, are led by volunteer guides," he said.

"There is even a dedicated team which prepares food for the animals each night at Woodland Reserve.

"The future of Whiteman Park is assured with the continued contribution of the hundreds of people like Des and Ellen who regularly volunteer to support the park's conservation and heritage activities."

Whiteman Park is one of Western Australia's most popular recreation and conservation parks, attracting about one million visitors annually.

The new Visitor Information Centre is open every day and largely staffed by volunteers.

Last year was the 20th anniversary of the Motor Museum and the 30th anniversary of the Bennett Brook Railway.

The park operates to protect the area's underlying aquifer as a drinking water source for Perth and to create a permanent public open space.



Planning Minister John Day congratulates Whiteman Park volunteer Des Noonan of Helena Valley on 10 years of service.