Communications Internship Information

Before applying to become a Communications Intern (8.5 week internship 20th Nov 2020 – 19th Jan 2021) with the Ningaloo Turtle Program (NTP) please read the following information.

Ningaloo Turtle Program

The Ningaloo Turtle Program (NTP) is based in the amazing Ningaloo Marine Park, part of the recently listed Ningaloo Coast World Heritage Area. The aim of the NTP is to support the long-term survival of turtle populations. Volunteers are the key to the success of the NTP; your time will support efforts to conserve marine turtles, which are threatened with extinction world-wide.

Alongside the 3 Team Leaders, the Communications Intern will gain experience in marine turtle monitoring techniques, turtle rescues, program management, supervision and organisation of volunteers, working with media professionals and make a hands-on contribution to turtle conservation in a World-Heritage listed marine park. It can be hard, hot work but with great rewards. You will meet like-minded people, get fit and have fun!

Internship position

The Communications Intern (hereby referred to as CI) will be engaged in all facets of the program including nest monitoring and working as part of the volunteer team. Their role will be to document and promote the program and turtle conservation through social media, local print media and other sources, as well as assisting the Team Leaders in the co-ordination of the NTP, the organisation of volunteers, turtle rescues and operation of a remote camp.

The Internship is a great opportunity for an enthusiastic applicant to use their creativity, initiative, and skills to promote turtle conservation in action along the remote and beautiful Ningaloo coastline of Western Australia. The role will require a very high degree of independence in all technical and production skills as there will be minimal technical support available in Exmouth.

Intern requirements:

- A current Senior First Aid qualification or ability to obtain it before commencement
- A current full Manual Motor Vehicle Drivers Licence (no P-Plates, etc.) and willingness to drive a mini-van
- Be at least 21 years old
- Have a **reasonable level of fitness**. You must be able to walk up to 6km in soft sand, sometimes over rocky terrain and sand dunes in very hot weather (temperatures range between the high 30's to the mid 40's during summer in Exmouth).
- Be available for the **full 8.5 week duration and** be prepared to work approximately **45 hours per week**
- Your own photographic equipment, laptop and appropriate software (we provide a basic digital camera, desktop computer, WIFI, printer, scanner and office space)
- Experience in producing publications
- Experience in the use of social and other media for promotional activities
- Experience in short film production (desirable)
- Experience in website design (desirable)

Intern roles and responsibilities:

- Take photographs, videos, interviews and other material over the period to promote the NTP
- Edit photography, videography and audio to a standard for online publication
- Utilise social media, local print media and other sources to promote turtle conservation and the NTP

- Support the Team Leaders in a supervisory role
- Assist in the coordination of the daily monitoring program
- Participate in monitoring, training, turtle rescues and remote camping activities as required
- Assist Team Leaders to organise social events for NTP participants
- Develop and conduct educational activities on turtles for school children and visitors to the Ningaloo region.

Please note:

- All NTP participants must present fit for work each time they are on duty and act in accordance with the Parks and Wildlife Services Code of Conduct. Breaches of the Code of Conduct will result in disciplinary action, which may include eviction from the program. Random breath testing may be carried out through the course of the program and failure to comply or pass the tests may result in eviction from the program
- All NTP participants must not let any other activities or other forms of employment affect their participation in the NTP and completion of duties. Secondary employment must be approved by Parks and Wildlife Service in accordance with the Parks and Wildlife Service Code of Conduct
- International volunteers are not covered by the Parks and Wildlife Service's personal insurance so must have appropriate travel insurance to cover any medical costs and provide Parks and Wildlife Services a copy of this. International volunteers must also ensure their visa allows for volunteer internships with remuneration and provide Parks and Wildlife Service with a copy of their visa.

Other volunteer positions

There will be a maximum of 12 external volunteers, up to three Team Leaders and one CI accepted into the program. There are also a number of local volunteers who are Exmouth residents. The CI is expected to work closely with all volunteers, particularly the Team Leaders.

Program dates

The CI will be required to arrive in Exmouth by Thursday 19th November 2020, and the accommodation will be available that afternoon. The first day in the program is Friday 20th November. The last day in the program is Tuesday 19th January, checking out of accommodation on Wednesday 20th January 2021. If the CI wishes to arrive earlier or stay longer, accommodation will be at their expense.

Accommodation and living conditions

- Conditions in Exmouth in summer can be very hot: 35-45 degrees.
- Two types of accommodation are provided. The majority of the time will be spent in shared accommodation in the town of Exmouth. The CI will share accommodation with other members of the NTP (usually a Team Leader). This will be a villa type accommodation with a shared bathroom and kitchen with separate bedrooms.
- The CI will also stay with a couple of volunteers at a remote camp within Cape Range National Park adjacent to Ningaloo Marine Park. While camped in the National Park you will be 50km from Exmouth. Swags, sleeping bags and pillows are provided but you may bring your own if you wish. You will need to bring a towel. The remote camp facilities include:
    - Long drop toilet
    - Very basic cold shower facilities with limited fresh water (easier to just have a swim!)
    - Camp style cooking facilities
    - Basic food is supplied while camping (budget provided) and meals will be cooked by participants on a shared basis
    - Camp located 200m from beach
    - No phone reception within the National Park
    - Note only 3-4 days at a time will be spent on a rotational basis at this camp

- A food subsidy of $20/day is provided while in Exmouth via reimbursement upon submission of receipts. The accommodation in Exmouth is within walking distance to the main town centre, where there are two supermarkets.

- Exmouth is subject to periodic **cyclone events**. The Ningaloo Turtle program is run during cyclone season and therefore heavy rain and cyclonic weather may affect the activities of the Program. In previous years it has meant

that monitoring has been cancelled for a few days until the weather has passed. Adequate supervision, guidance, cyclone shelter & accommodation are provided and emergency procedures are followed during these events.

Turtle Track Monitoring

Training

Training will be provided in track monitoring, data entry, turtle biology and ecology, and turtle-visitor interaction protocols. Training takes approximately one week and is primarily a combination of theory and field-based exercises and informal competency assessments. On completion of training, volunteers become certified "Turtle Trackers" and have a basic understanding of interaction protocols. For more information and to download monitoring manuals please see the 'Training' section on the NTP website.

Monitoring

The CI will work with the Team Leaders and volunteers and spend approximately 4-5 hours each morning (starting at sunrise) walking designated sections of beach. The CI will document (photograph, video) the day's activity and play an active role in recording important turtle nesting information such as successful nests, unsuccessful nesting attempts and evidence of nest disturbance and predation. You can often see adult female turtles returning to the water and are sometimes lucky enough to see hatchlings emerge from nests and make their first entrance into the ocean.

The CI will also be required to assist in or coordinate turtle rescues as needed, assist Team Leaders in equipment maintenance and cleaning and drive the mini-van. The CI will have time for writing, editing and production in the afternoons and we encourage creativity! There is flexibility within the role of the CI to be able to prioritise writing and promotional work over the morning monitoring. Coordinating and facilitating social activities within Cape Range National Park and Ningaloo Marine Park for the other volunteers is also a part of the role. There will also be free time to rest and do as you please.

The first two weeks are spent in training and pre-season organisation and preparation before the 12 external volunteers arrive.

Walking

The CI, Team Leaders and volunteers are asked to monitor sections of beach varying from 500m to 6km. This will require you to walk over uneven ground and sandy beaches and occasionally to walk up and down steep slopes. Participants need to have a reasonable level of physical fitness to walk these distances. If you have any concerns about this or any health conditions that may adversely affect your capacity to perform these duties, please discuss this with the NTP Coordinator **before applying** for a position. It is essential that your health is considered before signing up to the NTP.

Enclosed footwear such as sneakers, sandshoes or reef shoes must be worn during turtle monitoring activities. Although the monitoring sites are primarily soft sand, there are rocks, shells, coral and snakes on the beaches. Suitable footwear will help you avoid injuries therefore volunteers are not permitted to participate in monitoring unless they are wearing enclosed shoes.

Lifting and Handling

The handling of items such as camping equipment, and occasionally turtles, will be required from time to time during the monitoring season. Handling of heavy items should be undertaken by more than one person. If you have any doubt about how to lift an item, seek assistance from NTP staff before attempting to proceed.

Communication

Mobile phone reception is available in Exmouth but not available at most of the monitoring sites or within the Cape Range National Park. UHF radios are used to communicate with each other while monitoring.

Jurabi Turtle Centre

There will be an opportunity for NTP volunteers to visit the Jurabi Turtle Centre at night to witness turtle nesting activities.

What will be provided?

- Accommodation in Exmouth and whilst camping at the remote camp within Cape Range National Park (linen and bath towel supplied at Exmouth accommodation but bring your own beach towel)
- Food is provided while camping at the remote camp (within a budgeted amount) and a food subsidy for the remainder of the program is provided at $20/day per team leader
- Training in turtle track monitoring, tablet, GPS and radio use, data entry and the loan of course books and materials
- WIFI while at the 'turtle office'
- Return airfares/fuel subsidy up to the value of $800 from your principle place of residence to Exmouth
- Transport to and from all official NTP activities during the program
- NTP monitoring tshirt and hat
- The CI will have access to a basic digital camera and a workstation including desktop computer, printer, scanner, photocopier etc. The successful applicant is encouraged to also use their own equipment.
- A small operating budget may be provided for development of promotional materials or props for educational talks.

What to Bring

- Sunglasses, hat (broad-brimmed is best), long-sleeved shirts, shorts
- Enclosed shoes must be worn for all field work. They may get wet. Sandshoes or reef shoes with enclosed toes work well.
- Beach towel, bathers, rashvest for snorkeling
- Sunscreen
- Lightweight sarong to assist in sun protection
- Multiple 1L or 2L water bottles or camelbak
- Fly net
- Long pants for gorge walking
- Personal spending money for extra food, luxuries and recreational activities
- Exmouth can sometimes be cool at night in summer, especially when out on the beach, so bring just a couple of warm items of clothing. There is a local op shop if you get stuck.

Optional:

- Snorkelling gear – can hire in town but good to have your own if you have space
- Torch with a red filter. Head torches are recommended for use whilst you are camping. Red cellophane over a white light works well.
- Entertainment such as books, iPod, games
- Sleeping bag for remote camping – we can provide if you don't have space
- Your Christmas spirit 😊

****Please note that previous volunteers and team leaders have found that having their own car in Exmouth is useful so they can access the beaches, gorges and Cape Range National Park in their own time. There is no public transport in Exmouth, distances can be far and the NTP social activities are limited to two or three per week so your own transport can be an advantage.**
Bicycles are handy for getting around town and are often for sale on the local noticeboards. They can be purchased cheaply then re-sold upon departure.

Other Important Information

- As previously mentioned Exmouth gets very hot in summer (up to mid 40's). Please be aware of this and your own physical limitations before signing up for the program
- The 'turtle office' is within the compound of the Exmouth District Parks and Wildlife Service. As such, the CI and team leaders will be introduced to all staff and will gain exposure to various district works programs and may be provided with opportunities to help out with other works as they arise

- Telstra is the main mobile service provider in Exmouth, and Optus also works. Other smaller providers usually do not have reception
- COVID-19: Travel restrictions may still apply when the program is due to commence. Final acceptance into the NTP will be contingent on the ability to travel within and between states. Thanks for your flexibility and understanding.

Information on Exmouth Township

Location and Climate

Exmouth is located on the North West Cape approximately 1270km North of Perth and has a population of approximately 2600 people.

Exmouth is blessed with a fantastic climate. With no wet season, it is dry and warm all year. Summer daytime temperatures range from high 30's to mid 40's (average 37 degrees). Water temperatures in summer vary from 25 – 28 degrees.

You will be required to work outdoors for a number of hours during the day. You should drink a minimum of 2-3 litres of water each day. It is a good idea to start drinking before reaching the site and not allow yourself to become thirsty.

Recreation Activities

Exmouth has a fantastic variety of outdoor recreational opportunities that can be taken advantage of in your spare time:

- SCUBA diving, snorkelling, swimming
- Fishing
- Bush walking in the Cape Range National Park or the canyons to the south of Exmouth
- Microlight flights
- Glass bottom boat tours
- Kayak hire and tours
- Relaxing on the beach and
- Coral Bay is less than two hours drive away and has manta ray tours, quad tours etc.

Team Leaders organise two to three NTP social activities per week, a welcome barbeque for volunteers and an end of season party.
Some previous team leaders have ended up staying in Exmouth after the internship concluded to enjoy more of the Ningaloo Reef!

Facilities

Exmouth is a small regional town but has adequate amenities and facilities including two supermarkets, a bulk-food store, wholesalers, pharmacy, Westpac Bank, newsagent, post office, hospital, dentist, chiropractor, op-shop, surf shop and a number of cafes, restaurants and pubs. You may also like to visit the town 50m swimming pool, grassed BBQ areas overlooking the beach, a gym, tennis courts, sporting ovals, mini golf and skate park.

Additional information on Exmouth can be found here: http://www.visitningaloo.com.au/

Getting Here

AIRLINES

Qantas operate return flights from Perth to Learmonth Airport (37kms from Exmouth). A shuttle bus meets each flight – Parks and Wildlife Service will cover the cost of the shuttle bus if you require it. The flight takes approximately 2 hours.

ROAD ACCESS

Travelling from the south up to Exmouth along the North West Coastal Highway, drive 152km north of Carnarvon and turn left just past the Minilya Roadhouse – the Exmouth townsite is another 200km. Travelling from the north, turn off the North West Highway 110km South of Nanutarra Roadhouse onto Burkett Road. From here it's 80km to the Exmouth-Minilya Road. At this junction turn right to Exmouth (89km).

The drive up from Perth usually takes around 13 hours and is best split up with on overnight stay for safety: e.g. somewhere like Kalbarri/Geraldton/Carnarvon. Where possible this drive is best shared with others.

COACH SERVICES

Check Integrity Coach Lines and Greyhound Australia for current schedules between Perth and Exmouth if they are running.

Transport while you are here

Turtle nesting beaches are located about 15 - 35 km from Exmouth. A minivan is used to transport volunteers to monitor these beaches and is also used for official NTP social activities only.

Team Leaders and volunteers find it an advantage to have their own transport while they are here as it enables them to explore the wonderful local surroundings that the Ningaloo Coast World Heritage Area offers in their own time. It also gives you a bit of freedom as Exmouth township is located on the eastern side of the North West Cape and is approximately 40km from good snorkelling and exploring within Cape Range National Park.

Please note: Using your vehicle is at your own risk and the program cannot be held responsible for any damages that may occur. All drivers are encouraged to drive safely, obey all laws relating to motor vehicles and operate vehicles in a responsible manner.

Driving & Wildlife Wise

Access to and from each of the monitoring sites is by Departmental car or minivan. Extra care should be taken when driving on unsealed or unfamiliar roads. Slow down when driving in conditions you are not used to.

Wildlife often cross country roads, particularly at night and in the early morning. Being aware of this and taking care could save an animal's life and avoid damage to your car. If travelling at night, drive slowly and scan the sides of the road for wildlife (this will also help you keep alert). Remember that animals are very hard to see against a black bitumen road, particularly when it is wet. Take note of wildlife warning signs. They are there to advise you of known 'hot spots'. Animals react differently to approaching cars and it is best to let the animal move off first before passing.

How to apply

If you are interested in this position, please forward your CV, a letter addressing **all** selection criteria on the JDF (under separate headings), and a cover note telling us 'why you think you would be successful as a Communications Intern' and address it as 'NTP Comms Intern application' either via email: peter.barnes@dbca.wa.gov.au Fax: (08) 9947 8050 or post to 'Exmouth Parks and Wildlife Service, PO Box 201, Exmouth, Western Australia, 6707' before 4:00pm (GMT+8), Friday 31st July 2020.

Any Questions?

Visit the Ningaloo Turtle Program website at www.ningalooturtles.org.au. Alternatively, please do not hesitate to contact us (email is the preferred method) and we will get back to you as soon as is possible. For this position, email: peter.barnes@dbca.wa.gov.au or for general NTP enquiries please email ningalooturtles@dbca.wa.gov.au. Phone: Marine Park Coordinator, Peter Barnes +61-08-9947 8024 or Parks and Wildlife Services Reception, Exmouth: +61-08-9947 8000

Thank you for your interest in the program.
We are looking forward to the upcoming season and to meeting new volunteers with a keen interested in turtle conservation!