



“Critter Watchers” needed for the Desert Park.

Hello, I'm Helen Siganto and I'm a Critter Watcher at the Desert Park.

What is a Critter Watcher I hear you ask? A Critter Watcher is someone like you, who has a couple of hours a week to spare, who comes out to the Desert Park and sits and watches Critters (mammals, birds and reptiles) recording their behaviour.



Zookeepers point out exactly what observations need to be made. Behaviour such as breeding, feeding, fighting and other general behavioural patterns all get recorded to help the keepers at the Park with their management of these animals. This might be of how birds are coping when placed in a new aviary, or how a new male-female pair is getting on when first put together in the Nocturnal House.

So, if you have some spare time during the week and would like more information on being a Critter Watcher, please feel free to contact me on 8952 3802.

Hear from you soon!

Cheers, Helen.

Hello, I am Pat Hodgens, Acting Senior Keeper, Specialist Bird Keeper at the Park.

Helen and the other Critter Watchers at the Alice Springs Desert Park have assisted the Zookeeping staff in gathering information through detailed observations of various animals we hold.

Critter Watchers record valuable information regarding the breeding of many bird species including Cinnamon Quail thrush, Australasian Grebe and Hooded Robin. Other observations have included behavioural interactions between Yellow-rumped Thornbills, Australian Bustard, Kultarr, Spinifex Hopping-mouse and Golden-backed Honeyeater to name just a few.



The Critter Watchers have also been involved in monitoring the activity levels of animals in the Nocturnal house as part of a long term project.



Park staff are constantly needing new behavioural information to improve management. This means new and exciting animal observation projects involving birds, mammals and reptiles to be undertaken by Critter Watchers.

More Critter Watchers are always welcome to join the team at the Alice Springs Desert Park and help us continue making the Desert Park such a great place.

Remember, call Helen on 8952 3802 or leave a message at fodesertpark@gmail.com for information.