



11 June 2009

Dear Friends of Parks Member Groups

I am happy to advise that **nominations are now open for the DEH Volunteer Awards 2009**. The awards are a great opportunity for the Department to formally recognise Friends of Parks Groups and their members, for their hard work and dedication throughout the year.

As you will see, the Awards have taken on a new format this year. This is the culmination of a process we started 18 months ago with a survey of your thoughts about the Department's awards. Since that time we have worked closely with the Friends of Parks Inc Board, to develop a new, simple awards system that appropriately recognises the amazing contribution made by volunteers.

Three Outstanding Achievement Awards will be presented for Volunteer Group projects. These awards will recognise group achievement in any area, whether in biodiversity, heritage, partnerships, education, safety, trails, fundraising or another area. Each of the three winners will receive \$1250 to further the conservation goals of their group.

In addition one Outstanding Achievement Award will be presented for Individual Contribution. This award builds on the history of the Best Friends Medal to recognise an individual, couple or family that embodies the true nature of volunteerism. Once again the winner will receive \$1250 to further the conservation goals of their group.

The closing date for nominations is Monday, 17th August 2009.

If you have any questions regarding the awards, please don't hesitate to give Pam Smith a call on 8124 4784.

All the best

Kosette Lambert
MANAGER, VOLUNTEER SUPPORT