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## Issue no: 25

May 2015

Welcome to Touring WA, a selection of the latest news from the Department of Parks and Wildlife for visitors to Western Australia's national parks. In this issue you can find out about new and improved park facilities, how to make your journey safer and more enjoyable, helping to save the Numbat and how to enjoy three nights camping for the price of two at the new Martins Tank Campground near Mandurah.

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# Parks and visitor information

## Kimberley parks open

All national parks in the Kimberley have re-opened after the wet-season although roads to some sites may be closed due to water damage. Please check [Parks trails and road closures](#) to be sure.

If you pass through Kununurra you must visit [Mirima National Park](#). Situated right in the heart of Kununurra, the spectacular natural rock formations are popular for photography and nature observation.

The park is culturally significant for the local Miriwoong people who perform cultural ceremonies at special sites within the park. There are four walk trails that include new steps leading to a lookout with great views and wheelchair accessible boardwalk and toilets.



If you are going to camp in [Purnululu National Park](#), make sure you book ahead on [Park Stay WA](#). Please be aware that as of 1 April 2015 no campfires will be permitted in the park.

## Osprey Bay open and online!

Osprey Bay campground in [Cape Range National Park](#) near Exmouth is now open for bookings after recent redevelopment activities. If you are planning a trip to the Ningaloo Coast this year and would like to camp in the park, go to [ParkStayWA](#), check availability for your preferred dates and secure your camp site.



## More campground improvements underway

The Lucky Bay campground in [Cape Le Grand National Park](#), including access to the beach and coastal walk trails, will be

closed from 2 June to 31 October 2015 for redevelopment. Camping capacity will double to 80 sites and a dedicated day-use area for park visitors will be built. The works include new showers and toilets, camp kitchens and new toilets for the day-use area.



The works will happen in stages; the first priority is the construction of the day-use area to allow the public access to the beach as soon as possible. After that, the existing camping area will be upgraded and a new western camping loop will be constructed.

The camping areas will be progressively reopened following the completion of works. Parks and Wildlife aims to provide camping at Lucky Bay from 31 October 2015.

Miners campground and picnic area in [Coalseam Conservation Park](#) will be closed until approximately 30 June 2015 so that roads, campsites and facilities can be upgraded. Parks and Wildlife apologises for any inconvenience but the closure is necessary to enable the work to be done in time for wildflower season.



These works are all part of the State Government's Royalties for Regions [Parks for People Caravan and Camping initiative](#).

### **Martins Tank family camping offer**

Touring WA readers can now nominate to receive discount camping vouchers for [Martins Tank Campground](#) in Yalgorup National Park. A family of two adults and two children can stay two nights and get one free any time before 30 November 2015, excluding school holidays.



Only 50km south of Mandurah, [Yalgorup National Park](#) will be at its best in autumn and spring. Take a few days with your family to unwind and enjoy peaceful settings in the forest, vistas across tranquil lakes, bushwalking, birdwatching and wildflower viewing.

Stocks are limited so get in quick and email [touring.wa@dpaw.wa.gov.au](mailto:touring.wa@dpaw.wa.gov.au) by 4pm

Friday 15 May and include your name and postal address. The first 50 responses will each receive a voucher.

## The Gap and Natural Bridge update

Site works for the new visitor facilities at The Gap and Natural Bridge in [Torndirrup National Park](#) are well under way. Before long the spectacular new lookouts will be providing a breathtaking experience for more than 200,000 people that visit the park each year.



The Gap Road will be closed until construction is complete toward the end of 2015 but the rest of the park will remain open. These improvements are being funded by the Royalties for Regions program and Parks and Wildlife.

## New training course for safe outback travel

Global Gypsies has developed a unique training course called *City Slicker to Outback Jack*.

Over two and a half days, the intensive course covers basic bush mechanics, basic bush survival skills, preparation and planning for extended outback journeys, four-wheel drive training and towing training. The program emphasises hands-on practice and includes demonstrations, discussions, a fun bush survival game and plenty of time for questions.



The live-in course is held in a bush setting two hours from Perth, is self-catering (morning and afternoon teas are provided) and includes camping fees, a comprehensive workbook and expert tuition.

Contact [Global Gypsies](#) for details and bookings. Readers of this newsletter who book on the course will receive a free towing training DVD and a Global Gypsies beanie.

## Project Numbat

The numbat (*Myrmecobius fasciatus*) is a small, endangered marsupial native to Western Australia, and is the State's mammal emblem. The numbat is under threat from habitat loss and introduced predators such as foxes and feral cats. With an estimated population of fewer than 1000 individuals, help is needed to protect the future of this unique marsupial.



Visit [Project Numbat](#) and find out how you can help:

- Join Project Numbat. Your membership contributes to conservation efforts, while keeping you up-to-date with mail outs and quarterly newsletters.
- All donations over \$2 are tax-deductable.
- Each year numbats are fitted with radio-collars by the Parks and Wildlife to track their movements, gain important information on their dispersal ranges and ultimately their survival. In early December 2015, Parks and Wildlife staff will be fitting a number of numbats, captive born and/or wild caught, with radio-collars.
- Purchase merchandise from the Project Numbat online shop.

### Handy books add to your experience

May to September is the perfect time to enjoy the beautiful north-west of WA. Here are a few *Bush Book* titles to help you appreciate WA's unique plants, animals and special features.

- *Birds of the Kimberley*
- *Geology and Landforms of the Kimberley*
- *Hazardous Animals of North-Western Australia*
- *Plants of the Kimberley*
- *Snakes of Western Australia*



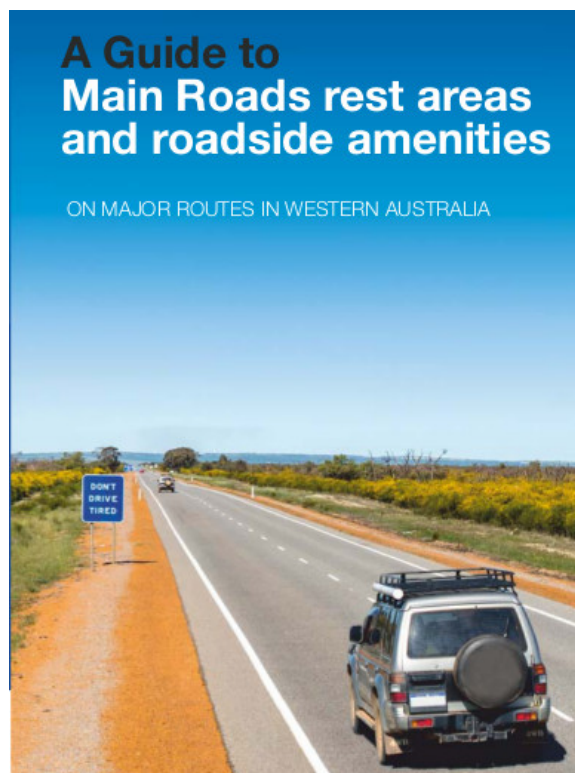
Whether you're travelling north, south or somewhere in between there is a wonderful collection of *Bush Books* available - check out the complete range of over 35 titles online at [shop.dpaw.wa.gov.au](http://shop.dpaw.wa.gov.au). All *Bush Books* are available at \$6.95 each.

### Invaluable help for trip planning

To help you plan your trip and travel safely to WA's fabulous parks and reserves you might like to visit [Main Roads WA](#). You will find a number of publications that will help you plan your trips through WA including:

- *Distance Book*
- *Driving the Gibb River Road and Other Roads in the Kimberley*
- *A Guide to Main Roads Rest Areas and Roadside Amenities.*

All of these are available for free download. Main Roads WA is a partner State Government agency working with Tourism WA to implement the Caravan and Camping Action Plan.



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## Industry news

### Save the date - WA State Tourism Conference

This two-day conference will be run jointly for the first time by [Tourism Council WA](#), [Caravan Industry Association of WA](#) and [Visitor Centre Association of WA](#) from 21 to 23 September 2015. Details will be available shortly but save the date now!



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## Reminders

### FACET Conference 2015, Geotourism - Tourism Down Under

This two-day conference will raise awareness of WA's ancient geoh heritage and explore tourism opportunities linked to WA's unique landscapes over 20 and 21 May 2015

For conference program, speakers and registration form, download the flyer at [www.facet.asn.au](http://www.facet.asn.au).



## The 23rd Annual Global Eco Conference

The 23rd Annual Global Eco Conference will be held on Rottneest Island, Western Australia from 17 to 19 November 2015.

To enquire about submitting a paper or to register, please visit [globaleco.com.au](http://globaleco.com.au).



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### Image credits

Tourism WA; Lucky Bay, Bathurst Lighthouse -Rottneest Island and Fish Hook Bay - Rottneest Island, Jacki Baxter -Parks and Wildlife; Martins Tank, Global Gypsies; four-wheel drive training, Tamara Wilkes-Jones; Numbat, Main Roads WA; Guide to Main Roads Rest Areas and Roadside Amenities.



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