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Autumn 2016

## Hi DPaW

Autumn is a truly magical time of year. The colours of our landscape are changing and the temperatures are finally cooling down. They say a picture paints a thousand words and as this photo shared by park regular Martin Garton captures; our wetland is stunning this time of year. Call in this season and see the natural beauty for yourself.



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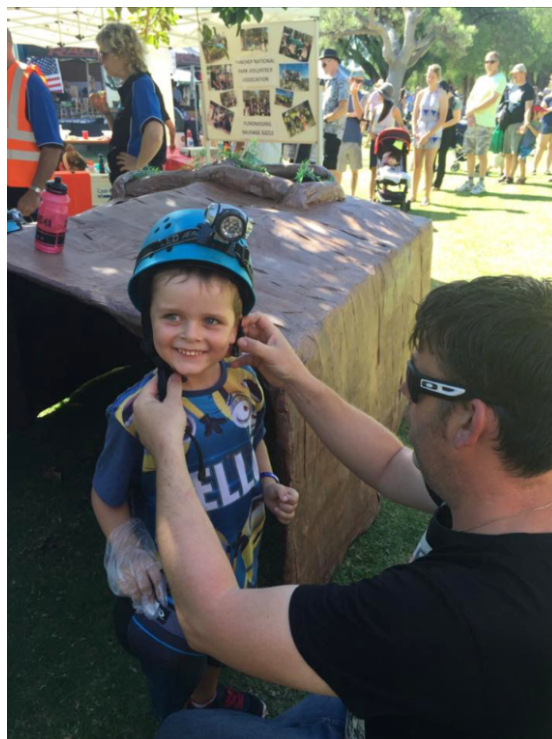
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## Park visitors treated to a Retro Rewind

A crowd of more than 5000 people enjoyed a toe-tappin' afternoon of retro themes on Saturday 12 March when the City of Wanneroo, in partnership with the Vintage Collective Markets, hosted **Retro Rewind** in Yanchep National Park.

The musical entertainment featured Rapartee for Two, Some Like It Yacht and Randa and the Soul Kingdom, each bringing the music of the 60s and 70s back to life. There was plenty of free retro themed activities to keep the whole family entertained including more than 50 market stalls, a hot rod display, swing dance demonstrations, arcade games and more.



Visitors to the Yanchep National Park stand were treated to free koala and cultural talks and a hands-on cave exhibit. The kids were kept busy with a colouring competition and Aboriginal hunting (scavenger hunt) game. Our mascot Koala Millie was also spotted enjoying a boogie on the dance floor!

Park manager Julia Coggins said this year's event, the third of its kind, was the biggest and best yet!

"Visitors and staff alike had a fabulous time and it was great to see such a large crowd enjoying the entertainment in the beautiful surrounds of the national park. We look forward to working with the City of Wanneroo on similar events in the future," she said.



## Summer school for park staff

Yanchep National Park staff have been busy over the summer season fine-tuning skills and learning new ones.

Cave training was on the agenda, with Derek Nannup and Eve Taylor successfully completing their Crystal Cave guiding assessments. We have been delighted to welcome Eve, an experienced caver with lots of caving experience, back to the park after some years away and it's fabulous to see Derek, who runs our Aboriginal experience and cultural program of activities, add cave guiding to his large list of talents!



Experienced guides Chanelle Morey and Yvette Cox also added Adventure Caving accreditation to their list of achievements. Chanelle said "it's such a pleasure to see happy faces at the end of an adventure caving activity and a real privilege to be able to share our amazing cave system with others."

Also this summer, volunteer coordinator Ciara McIllduff, ranger Pips Carboon, visitor services officers Jane Kemp and Madonna Mulholland and park volunteers Dave, Gavin, Joel and Lyn were joined in the training room by some spectacular snakes as they participated in a Venomous Snake Training and Relocation course run by Gary Davies of West Aussie Reptiles. This training aims to provide knowledge and experience in the safe capture and relocation of snakes.

“It was an amazing opportunity to spend some time handling some snakes and learn more about these beautiful and often misunderstood creatures,” Pips said.

This exciting training opportunity will be run a second time in March with more staff and volunteers participating and getting hands on with some slithery visitors!



## Meet Ranger Pip!

One of three dedicated rangers in Yanchep National Park, Pip has worked for the Department of Parks and Wildlife since 2008 and has been employed in the park since 2010. Pip is often recognised, particularly by local school children, for her large hat! If you spot Ranger Pip be sure to say hello.

### What's your favourite thing about Yanchep National Park?

I love the diverse range of flora and fauna in the park.

### What do you like most about your job?

I love the wide variety of tasks that I have to do. Every day is different at Yanchep.

**What are three words that best describe you?**

Passionate, dedicated, fun.

**What is your favourite food, sport and place?**

My favourite food is Indian food, I enjoy fishing and spending time at home with my family.

**Name something on your bucket list?**

I'd love to visit Broome.



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## Yanchep National Park volunteer uniforms arrive

Yanchep National Park volunteers were delighted to receive new volunteer shirts just in time for the new year. The green shirts feature the park logo and enable staff and visitors to identify our volunteers as a part of the Yanchep National Park family.

In addition the multitude of conservation and park maintenance projects volunteers are involved with, they are advocates for the Department of Parks and Wildlife and the public face of the Yanchep National Park Volunteer Association.

Volunteers are in frequent contact with visitors and are always willing to answer questions, give directions, provide important information about flora, fauna and local conservation issues or just have a friendly chat to international guests. The new shirts were funded by generous donations to the Volunteer Fund and a fundraising barbecue held by volunteers at our recent Hot Rods in the Park event.



## CVA Green Army fighting for Carnaby's cockatoo

Yanchep National Park recently welcomed participants from the Northern Metropolitan Carnaby's Black Cockatoo Conservation Project. The project is delivered by the Green Army, which is an Australian Government initiative enabling young people to develop skills, undertake training and gain experience in environmental conservation. Green Army participants are recruited by Conservation Volunteers Australia (CVA) who provide a team leader and engage with project partners such as Yanchep National Park. The team then delivers projects which focus on the rehabilitation of Carnaby's cockatoo habitats in the north metropolitan area.

Green Army focused on removing invasive weed species, particularly *Typha orientalis*, around Loch McNess to provide safe access to areas of open water for Carnaby's cockatoos to address a severe lack of permanent water sources for the endangered species during summer. Participants were delighted to see a male Carnaby's drinking and bathing in the newly created pond only one week after the project was initiated.

Park manager Julia Coggins said the successful partnership between CVA and Yanchep National Park was of great benefit to the park's Carnaby's population, as well as Green Army participants.



"It's a great opportunity to gain practical experience in a meaningful conservation project," she said.

The Green Army will be involved in other volunteer projects at Yanchep National Park including the restoration of degraded Carnaby's habitat. Yanchep also hosts participants of the Chevron Aboriginal Conservation Training Program as well as local school groups, *Bush Rangers*, Scouts and community groups who contribute valuable time and skills to local conservation projects.

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## Easyrider Adventures prepare to launch

Easyrider Adventures are ready to start operations in Yanchep National Park!

After many weeks of behind-the-scenes preparation and early morning test rides with only the kangaroos as an audience, Michael Bone, owner of this exciting new venture said they are ready to offer the 'riding and gliding' experience to all.

Michael said the immediate response from those lucky enough to have been test riders, and they ranged in age from 8 to 68, had been totally fun-filled.

"Feedback has ranged from 'amazing' to 'I don't want to get off'," he said.

Easyrider Adventures will operate from Bull Banksia Oval during the April school holidays so mark your diaries and come celebrate the arrival of this great new attraction in our national park.



## What's on this Easter?

The Easter long weekend is here! This year, in addition to our usual daily program of activities, we are excited to offer tours of Yonderup Cave and an Aussie Easter Evening Special during the Easter break.

The two-hour 'Aussie Easter' activity will start at 6pm on Saturday 26 March and will include an informal koala talk with Ranger John, a sausage sizzle and 'Nytting' campfire stories with Derek.

Tickets for the Aussie Easter activity are by pre-booking only and pre-booking of tickets for the Yonderup tours are strongly encouraged. Tickets are \$14 for adults, \$7 children (6-15 yrs), \$11 Australian seniors and \$35 mini groups (two adults and two children) per activity.

For more information or to book tickets please call our bookings team on 9303 7772.



### What's On Easter 2016

**Good Friday, Easter Saturday, Easter Sunday, Easter Monday**

**Guided Activities Available every day**

Crystal Cave Tours	10:30am, 11:30am, 1pm, 2pm, 3pm
Yonderup Cave Tours*	11am, 12:30pm, 2pm
<small>*Dress requirements &amp; age restrictions apply. Pre booking encouraged</small>	
Free Koala Talk	3:15pm
Aboriginal Experience	2pm, 3pm

**'AUSSIE EASTER' EVENING SPECIAL - Saturday 26th March Only**  
Join Ranger John and Derek for a snag and an evening of Koalas & Culture (Nytting). Activity runs from **6pm** until **8pm** and includes a Koala talk, sausage sizzle and campfire stories. **Pre bookings essential for this activity.**

**Costs:** \$14.00 adults    \$7.00 children (6-15 yrs)    \$11.00 Australian Seniors  
\$35.00 mini group (2 adults & 2 children)

Tickets must be purchased from McNess House Visitor Centre at least 15 minutes prior to the activity. Please book early to avoid disappointment. Directions to guided activities/venues provided on purchase of tickets.

**For pre bookings please call 9303 7772**

Also available  
Adventure Caving, Educational Activities, Corporate Group Activities  
Enquire within or call 9303 7772 for more information

Department of Parks and Wildlife

## Boobook owl research

Biologist Mike Lohr from Edith Cowan University has been studying boobook owls in Yanchep National Park to assist with his PhD research. According to BirdLife Australia the southern boobook has suffered range-wide decreases in numbers across Australia since 1999. Mike's study focuses on the impacts of habitat fragmentation on southern boobooks in Perth and surrounding areas in order to gain an understanding of the threats facing boobooks.

You can help this important study! If you come across a dead boobook or boobook feathers, please contact Mike and he will collect the sample as soon as possible. If it's reasonably fresh, place it in a plastic bag and keep it cool. Refrigerators are best but freezers are okay too. Mike tests livers, heart and muscle tissue of deceased boobooks and donates remaining material to the WA Museum to aid other researchers studying boobooks in the future.

Mike is also very interested in reports of boobooks seen during the day, which he captures for a short time as part of his research. A small blood sample is taken to test for poisons, diseases and genetic analysis. Mike gently takes a few measurements



and returns them to their roost.

Two beautiful Yanchep owls have been sampled and will hopefully assist Mike in identifying factors that may be causing declines in southern boobooks. Mike can be contacted via mobile: 0407 147 901, email: [m.lohr@ecu.edu.au](mailto:m.lohr@ecu.edu.au) or on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/boobooksWA/>.

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## Autumn's Aura 2016 – *Nearer to Nature* at Yanchep

Let the *Nearer to Nature* team entertain the kids these school holidays with some of the activities from the [Autumn's Aura program](#) held in Yanchep National Park.

Kids with a sense of adventure can have a magnificent underground experience as they enjoy exploring and crawling through one of the park's wild caves during an **Adventure Caving** activity. Two sessions will be held on Friday 15 April with the first at 10am catering for children aged 8–10yrs and the second at 12.45pm for 10 to 14-year-olds.

The **Camouflage Capers** activity provides an opportunity for children aged 4–7yrs old to discover the ways animals use their bodies and behaviour to blend into the environment. This exciting activity will be held at 10am on Thursday the 21<sup>st</sup> April. During the afternoon older children have an opportunity to immerse themselves in Aboriginal culture and gain an understanding of the six seasons of the Noongar calendar. The **Discovering the Six Seasons** activity will run at 1pm and is aimed at children aged 7–12yrs.

Bookings for these activities are essential. To secure a spot please contact *Nearer to Nature* on 9295 2244 during business hours.



## Chocolate Drops drops into Parliament House

Congratulations to Sue and the Droplets at Chocolate Drops who were major sponsors for the sixth year running at the Tourism Council Board of WA's Tourism Industry function at Parliament House. Sue said she was looking forward to the event, which provided a valuable networking opportunity, and was very proud to be invited once again.

To keep updated on all Chocolate Drop news and events why not like their new [Facebook page](#)?



## Dancers hit the boards at Gloucester Lodge

APA Stageworks have made a great start to 2016 and started the new term in Gloucester Lodge with overwhelming support from students old and new.

“Along with our usual classes, ballet, tap, street, contemporary, acro, musical theatre, singing, drama, boys crew and barbie ballet, we have also added Broadway Babies, Jazz, Cheerleading (with our wonderful coach Rianne), Konga (The Jungle Body -



with Shaz) and Kangatraining (with Claire),” Miss Tammie said.

“Our students will be working towards lots of performances throughout the year with our annual concert at Peter Moyes School in October, internal exams, photo shoots, charity functions and Star of the Day certificates keeping everybody busy and having fun.”

For more information on any of classes contact Miss Tammie on 0435 443 407 or via [Facebook APA Stageworks](#).

## The best classroom on the planet is nature!

*An update from Lee-Ann Groenewegen of Little Gumnuts:*

It has been wonderful observing how our Little Gumnuts enjoy playing in the wild and natural spaces of beautiful Yanchep National Park, whether it's turning a log into a bus, using it as a balance beam, feeling it or studying the bugs crawling on it. What is it about wild spaces that brings learning alive?

In natural outdoor play, children are inclined to push their own boundaries and take risks – “can I walk on this, climb over, crawl under or jump off?” Children's confidence, imagination and motor skills are stimulated by all these activities. Unlike regular playgrounds, nature is ever-changing and resources are scattered around - sticks, leaves, mud, stones and unlike a plastic toy, these resources have no pre-determined function; they can be moved, arranged, taken apart and used to create in a variety of ways.

Outdoor play and the ample space offer children the opportunities to engage with nature and choose their own play and follow their interests in their own way and are therefore more likely to be more engaged in their play.

At our January holiday program, we read a story about 'Stick Man', the children spent time creating a stick man, they also built fairy huts, whittled and sawed sticks using our kiddi tools. They were proud of their creations and they had no idea they were learning!



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To keep updated with all news and events don't forget to like [Yanchep National](#)

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