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YANCHEP NATIONAL PARK

HISTORY

Yanchep National Park, covering 2790 hectares is situated on Wanneroo Road, 51 kilometres north of Perth.

It derives its name from the native word "Yanjet" meaning "Bullrush" which grow in profusion on the fringes of lakes within the park.

In 1901 the area was selected for grazing cattle by Henry White, whose home later became what is now the McNess Guest House. Interest in the area was spurred by a Perth naturalist and lawyer, A.W. Milligan, between the years 1902 and 1920, around which time it was taken over by the Government as a park, and placed in the care of the Chief Secretary's Department.

It owes much of its early development to the public works which were undertaken during the depression years when the road was extended from Wanneroo to Yanchep.

Largely through donations of the philanthropist Sir Charles McNess, Yanchep Lake (now known as Loch McNess) was dredged, and using labour on unemployment relief, the park began to take its present shape.

Every effort is being made towards making this a beautiful park for relaxation and recreation, while at the same time, preserving for posterity, the natural beauty of the area, with its distinctive natural features, fauna and flora.

In 1931 responsibility for the park was transferred to the State Gardens Board and in 1956 to the National Parks Board. On its establishment 1 August, 1976 the National Parks Authority assumed control of the area which had been created a National Park in 1969.

GEOLOGY

The Yanchep area lies within the coastal limestone belt. The landform consists of aeolian limestone deposits, transformed by the processes of diagenesis into an almost continuous crust of Travertine with numerous caves and solution pipes as a feature of the area.

### VEGETATION

In the park are woodland, consisting of Tuart, *Eucalyptus gomphocephala*, which may be accompanied by Jarrah *E. marginata* and Marri *E. calophylla*, Banksia scrub, Parrot bush scrub, and a swamp association which includes paperbark *Melaleuca raphiophylla*, swamp banksia *Banksia littoralis* and flooded gum *E. rudis*.

The whole area has a rich variety of tall and low shrubs, and in some localities kangaroo paws and orchids appear in springtime.

More information on the vegetation and about the wildlife is available in the Yanchep National Park Guide to Flora and Fauna.

### SCENIC ATTRACTIONS

Caves Beautiful cave formations are to be seen in the Crystal and Yonderup Caves. It is interesting to note that Yonderup Cave was at one time an aboriginal burial place. Crystal and Yonderup are open for public inspection as under: -

Sundays and Public Holidays

11.15 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.

Other days - Crystal Cave - 1.30, 2.15, 3.00 & 3.45 p.m.

Yonderup Cave - by arrangement

The Yanchep National Park Office should be contacted if a special inspection is required.

Loch McNess - A fleet of rowing boats is maintained for your pleasure and use. Oars for these may be obtained from the kiosk on the lake front on Sundays and public holidays, and from the office on all other days.

Launch trips around the lake provide a pleasant way to enjoy the scenery. They usually operate only on Sundays and public holidays, but during school holidays they may be arranged to suit public demand. Normal operating times are between 10.00 a.m. and 5.00 p.m.

Boomerang Gorge - A picturesque gorge, typical of the natural clefts found in the limestone belt within the area. It can be seen from the nature trail meandering through it.

#### FACILITIES

This most attractive holiday and picnic resort provides a wide variety of facilities for the enjoyment of visitors.

Playing Fields - Two ovals provide playing fields for football, cricket and hockey.

These can be booked through the office, but intending users are warned that bookings are heavy and should be arranged well in advance.

Golf Course - Yanchep National Park contains a pleasant, grassed, nine hole all weather course. If unattended, green fees should be left in the honour box provided at the course.

Hall - For indoor activities, a recreation hall is available for hire.

Picnicking - The area of the lake front has been landscaped to provide a shaded and pleasant place in which to picnic.

Barbecues and tables have been set out to give you and your family some privacy. However, large parties may book a picnic area for their particular use, but this should be arranged well in advance.

All ovals have their own barbecues and when an oval is booked, the accompanying facilities are also reserved.

Swimming Pool - A filtered pool is available to cool off. Open during season daily from 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.

Accommodation - Yanchep Inn (Licensed premises), and McNess Guest House (overlooking Loch McNess) provide comfortable accommodation.

Tariffs are available on request from the proprietors.

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Shop - McNess Guest House has a small shop providing cool drinks, confectionery, cigarettes, snacks and many other comforts and requirements.

Meals - Both establishments provide meals, but if your party is large, prior arrangements should be made.

Children's Playground - We acknowledge the generosity of certain public spirited societies who have presented much of the equipment provided in the children's playgrounds. We can assure our younger patrons of an enjoyable and memorable visit.

#### NATURE TRAILS

There are a number of walks through the park suitable for the more energetic. The office should however be contacted for information and advice concerning these.

#### WILDFLOWER GARDENS

The park has planted a collection of West Australian wildflowers in special beds provided for this purpose. This only represents a small part of the State's magnificent natural flora, which we are happy to present to our visitors.

The indigenous wildflowers are at their best during the months of August, September, and October, during which time conducted wildflower walks may be organised by arrangement with the park office.

#### FAUNA

A further attraction of the park are the many animals and birds which are housed under the most natural conditions.

Yanchep National Park is proud to present the only koalas in Western Australia. There are no set feeding times, however 9.30 a.m. and 2.30 p.m. can be taken as a guide for best viewing times.

Kangaroos, emus, black swans, parrots, budgerigars, finches and many other species may also be seen.

The grey kangaroo may nearly always be sighted on a quiet evening, grazing on the ovals and golf course.

Over 1300 species of birds have been recorded within the reserve.

INFORMATION

For further information, you will be most welcome to call personally or telephone the park office on 095 611004. We have an interesting display of colour slides and postcards which may be purchased as a memento of your visit.

The office and staff are at your service, but please, no dogs.