



Scruffy is one of the charges cared for by Yanchep National Park ranger-in-charge John Wheeler. Above, Scruffy enjoys tender loving care from a delighted visitor. Photo by David Gough

Opening of McNess House

A \$5 million public and private sector project to upgrade Yanchep National Park was unveiled recently by Premier Richard Court.

The project is one of the biggest private investments in nature-based programs aimed at enhancing the State's conservation effort.

Mr Court said private investment in environmental and recreation projects in conservation areas would be a major stimulus to promoting Western Australia as a nature-based tourism destination.

This in turn would improve opportunities for local communities with flow-on benefits to small businesses that then created new employment opportunities.

"Western Australia's conservation effort must look beyond Government for some resources, including funding," he said.

"Sponsorship in the conservation, recreation and park areas is only a new development which reflects increasing community support for conservation, especially within the corporate sector which recognises that good investment opportunities exist.

"The Coalition Government is creating an economic environment which facilitates private sector investment to enhance the management of our parks."

The \$5 million joint venture at Yanchep National Park includes a new commercial lease and licence agreement for the Yanchep Inn and associated recreation facilities.

Under the terms of this lease and licence agreement, the private sector will invest about \$3 million in the park including:

- A \$2 million upgrade of the Yanchep Inn, 22 more accommodation units and a new tearoom/kiosk.
- \$1 million on improving facilities in the park such as the golf course, caves and rowing boats.

The Government, in association with the private sector has invested

\$200 000 in upgrading the historic McNess House.

LandCorp committed \$75 000 towards the work, which included a substantial contribution to internal design, project management and provision of building materials.

Dalux Australia donated 200 litres of paint while Midland Brick Co Pty Ltd provided pavers at a discounted price.

The grand old guest house has been transformed into a focal point for visitors, providing information about the area and ideas for things to see and do.

Other Government-funded initiatives include roadworks costing \$200 000, a new 116-bay lakeview car park at a cost of \$185 000, a new lakeview picnic area costing \$32 000 and new infrastructure for water, power, telephones and signposting costing a total \$235 000.

Work scheduled this financial year includes completing most of the landscape works around McNess House at a cost of \$200 000, a new 170-bay car park costing \$300 000, planning a new koala compound, further improving visitor services and completing the new entry station and associated road works.

The commercial lease agreement, between local company Keymark and CALM, was approved by the National Parks and Nature Conservation Authority and Environment Minister Kevin Mison.

The company also has taken over the reticulation, mowing, rubbish collection and barbecues in the park's recreation areas as well as managing the golf course, swimming pool, cave visits and rowing boat hire leaving CALM park staff free to provide more services to the public.

Keymark will pay five per cent of its gross turnover from the park to the Government.



Young volunteers (above) help blow up balloons - a popular attraction. Photo by Verna Costello



Life-size model of earliest Yanchep settler, Henry White (above left). Display unit showing topography of Yanchep National Park recreation area (upper right). Panels can be lit up by the press of a button to show various aspects of the park. Fireplace surrounded by 1930s-style furniture (lower right). Note the stained glass door panels. Photos by Verna Costello



How to take charge of Ebon, a brown falcon (Falco berigora). Photo by Verna Costello



Above left, Short Circuit, a barn owl (Tyto alba) from Raptor Retreat, solemnly views the proceedings and wisely says nothing. Yanchep National Park rangers Geoff Harnett and Therese Jones taking their task seriously (upper right). Therese admires her handiwork (lower right). Photos by Verna Costello

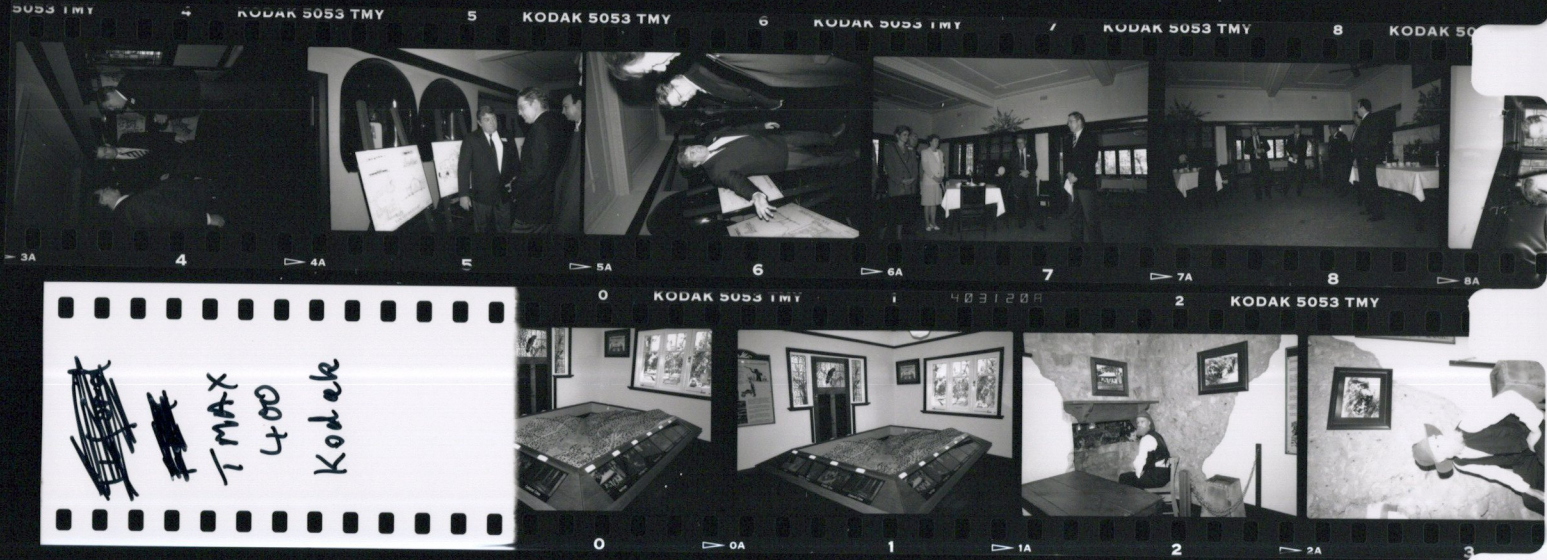


Young James Gough (right) joins other visitors to make a new friend. Photo by David Gough





Opening of Yonchep Hotel and Mc-Ness House by Premier Richard Bourt



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