

Family Fun Festival



A festival visitor and carpet python make friends. Photo by David Gough

YANCHEP National Park's Family Fun Festival, held on Labour Day, was the culmination of several weeks' work by staff at the Park.

The festival was to celebrate the 'Year of the Family' and a wide range of activities and entertainment were available for all ages.

CALM staff were on hand to answer questions about the park and its wildlife and, where needed, joined in the events to help make the day as enjoyable as possible for the many families who had come along.

A group of young people from 'Sportsfun' organised a popular series of physical activities such as gymnastics, ball games, tug-of-war and stilt-walking as part of the Ministry of Sport and Recreation's display.

CATS Unrubbish and CALM volunteers showed children how to create craft works with gumnuts and recycled rubbish, while other children had their faces painted in all manner of garishly colourful cartoon characters or furry animal friends.

The furry animal

by David Gough

friends theme continued into the puppet show, which ran four times during the afternoon to the delight of the young, and sometimes not so young, audience.

Puppeteer Margo Seimer sang songs and told stories with Kerry the Koala, Cornelius the Crocodile, Wally the Wombat and many other bush characters.

Retro Rat (the Environmental Avenger) also made an appearance and was a big hit with the children, who followed him around.

Snakes, lizards, eagles and owls were also on hand.

A large carpet python was draped around the shoulders of anxious adults and thrill-seeking children, while tiger snakes, dugites and a gwardar were viewed in safety through glass-fronted cabinets. The eagle, with its tremendously powerful claws, sat on the gloved hand of its handler, while the owl looked on with apparent disinterest.

Those children not worn out by the games and

gymnastics could try their hands at rope walking, tree climbing and abseiling, or swing through the trees on a flying fox.

The Atlantis Bush Band provided a musical element to the day's activities and a gentle wind-down to a fun-packed and well-organised afternoon.

Visitor services officer Rod Annear said that staff

at Yanchep National Park evaluated each program or activity to assess its effectiveness and enjoyment by visitors.

"We always try to find out how we went and how we can improve things for next time," Rod said

"This time we counted smiles on faces and by our count, the day was a raging success!"

We've got your number!

BY THE time this issue of CALM NEWS has been distributed, each staff member should have received a copy of the new internal telephone directory.

The directory was compiled, with listings in two sections, by Marg Wilke and Robyn Weir of Corporate Relations Division and should help improve internal communications.

The first listing, in alphabetical order, is of all staff, and the second, also in alphabetical or-

der, is by organisational unit, showing structure, job titles and names of staff holding those titles as at time of compilation.

Every effort has been made to ensure accuracy but changes will have occurred between compilation, printing and distribution.

It is suggested that staff keep up to date by following the *Staff News*, usually on page 2 of *CALM NEWS*, and altering their directories accordingly.

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