

# Swan Coastal Plain Walk Trail officially opened

CALM's nature-based tourism attractions have been boosted by the completion of the first 45 kilometres of the new Coastal Plains Walk Trail, just north of Perth.

Recently opened by Environment Minister Cheryl Edwardes, the new trail offers people the chance to explore the many unique and natural features of the Swan Coastal Plain.

The first section of the trail stretches from Yanchep National Park to Melaleuca Conservation Park.

When completed, it will extend a further 45 km to Walyunga National Park—making it one of the State's long distance trails.

Following in the footsteps of the Bibbulmun Track, it has been designed and built to provide people with an accessible recreational opportunity to explore the northern conservation estates of Perth.

## Catering for all

The trail caters for all levels of walkers, provide day walks for beginners with a two and half day trek for experienced long

by Mitzi Vance

distance walkers.

It showcases the area's natural attractions from the tranquil wetlands, tuart and banksia woodlands, and forest fauna to spectacular wildflowers and scenic glimpses of the coast and the Darling Scarp.

Able led by project co-ordinator Therese Jones, the trail crew worked hard over recent months to construct the track, often in rainy and windy weather.

To provide comfort and shelter for long-distance walkers, the crew also built two camp shelters in the northern section of the trail, with a third on the way.

A further two are currently under construction in the southern section to Walyunga National Park.

Therese said a trail register had also been provided in Yanchep National Park as a safety precaution for long distance walkers, and an emu's footprint was chosen for the specially designed trail markers which guide walkers along the route through conservation estates and State forests.



Environment Minister Cheryl Edwardes (centre) and projects co-ordinator Therese Jones with trail construction team members (left to right) Julian Morris, David Perkins, Len Zamudio, Gary Hunton, Jason Bowie and Neil Osman. Photo by Norm Bailey

The new trail was initiated and developed by CALM in conjunction with the North West Metro Tourism Association.

Stage one of the trail was funded by the Federal Department of Science, Industry and Tourism, with strong support from

the City of Wanneroo, CALM's Bibbulmun Track project team and local community organisations such as the Wanneroo

Wanderers Four-Wheel Drive Club.

The second half of the trail from Neaves Road to Walyunga National Park is

due to open in early spring.

Trail guides for the northern section are available from metropolitan CALM offices.

