

NANNUP FOREST EXPERIENCE

A new nature-based tour, on which visitors may get hands-on experience in helping forest managers find out more about Western Australia's wildlife, has been launched in the South West.

Called the Nannup Forest Experience, the tour is a collaborative effort between the Nannup Tourist Centre and the Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM) and builds on Western Australia's natural advantage in offering

visitors an insight into the State's unique environment.

CALM Executive Director Syd Shea, who launched the tour in Nannup, said it enabled people to go into the forests and to join in the day-to-day work of CALM forest managers, who study and monitor wildlife and their habitats.

The tour comprises an evening in the forest spotlighting native animals, followed by a morning inspecting traps and weighing

and measuring animals. CALM staff also give talks on other aspects of the forest environment such as dieback, feral animals and fire.

The jarrah forest around Nannup has a diverse array of wildlife that includes dunnarts (small mouse-sized marsupials), phascogales (also known as wambengers), bandicoots, chuditch and brushtail possums. CALM monitors animals such as these to gauge the impact of forest use on wildlife.

The Nannup Forest Experience also blends the skills of the private sector's tour operators with the scientific knowledge of CALM. In this way CALM helps the private sector in creating new tourism ventures. Wildlife Walkabout Safaris, a private operator from Busselton, has been engaged by Nannup Tourist Centre to take people on the tour.

The Nannup Forest Experience is a pilot program that could become the model for co-operative, ecologically sustainable tourism in other parts of the South West.

Wildlife is only one aspect of the forest that can be developed for tourism ventures. Others include general forest management, timber harvesting, culture and heritage. The development of ventures such as these will help conserve the forests as they stimulate a greater conservation ethic among tourist operators and tourists.



Left: CALM officers Karl Beck (left) and Jim Green measuring a quenda (*Isodon obesulus*).
Photo - Shann Low



Below left: Adult female chuditch (*Dasyurus geoffroii*).
Photo - Peter Marsack/Lochman Transparencies

Below: Brushtail possum (*Trichosurus vulpecula*).
Photo - Geoff Taylor/Lochman Transparencies



LANDSCOPE

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The galah is just one of the many bird species that visit our urban and suburban gardens. 'Birds in the Garden' shows us how we can attract more.



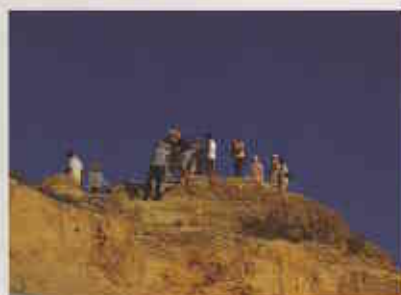
In spring, the Wongan Hills are ablaze with wildflowers, but this 'island' sanctuary is also a home to a wide variety of animals. See page 21.



Yanchep National Park is having a facelift. Our story on page 28 examines the history and rebirth of one of Perth's closest and most visited national parks.



Banksia gardneri var. brevidentata is one of a number of plants named in honour of Charles Gardner. See 'Gardner's World' on page 41.



The Pinnacles is one of several destinations for licensed tours operating in WA's national parks. See 'Travel Companions'.

FEATURES

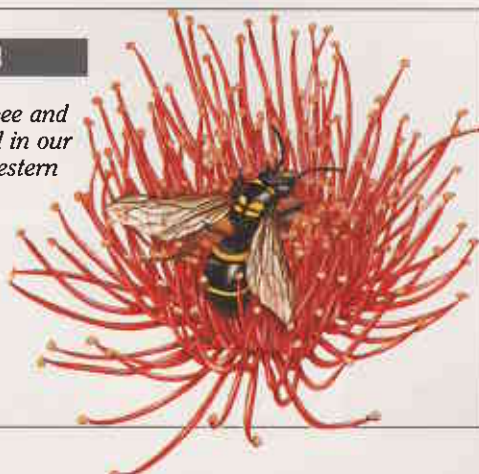
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COVER

Hyleoides zonalis is a solitary bee and one of the native bees described in our story about the 'real' bees of Western Australia on page 17. The illustration is by Philippa Nikulinsky.



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