

NEW PARK FACILITIES AND UPGRADES

During the first six months of the 2002 International Year of Ecotourism, more than \$2 million is being spent on developing and upgrading facilities in new and existing national parks in the south-west. These capital works, when completed, will enhance local visitors' and tourists' experiences of the unique environments found in national parks and forests. They are also expected to provide long-term benefits for a sustainable nature-

based tourism industry, and employment opportunities for local communities.

The \$2,050,000 is the 2001-2002 component of the four-year provision of \$25.686 million allocated to the Department of Conservation and Land Management by the State Government as part of its commitment to establish 30 new parks in the south-west of WA, in line with its Protecting Our Old-growth Forests policy.

Some areas that are being

upgraded or developed are around Manjimup, Pemberton, Northcliffe, Walpole, and in Wellington National Park near Collie.

In the proposed Greater Beedelup National Park, a day-use area and interpretation facilities are being developed in the former Giblett forest block, and the Cleave Road campground is being upgraded.

A walktrail is being developed in the proposed Greater Hawke National Park, while in the proposed Tone-Perup National Park environmental education and interpretation facilities at the Perup Forest Ecology Centre will be further developed. An observation deck, interpretation facilities and a day-use area are being constructed in the proposed Lake Muir National Park.

At D'Entrecasteaux National Park, a walk trail, lookout and associated visitor facilities will be established, Salmon Beach Road is to be upgraded, and a walktrail, lookout and associated visitor facilities at Mt Chudalup will be completed.

In Warren National Park, new visitor facilities will be completed as part of the

Karri Forest Explorer Drive, which links to new and existing national parks. In the proposed Boorara-Gardner National Park, an upgrade to visitor and interpretation facilities at the Lane Poole Falls and the Boorara Tree will be completed.

In the Walpole-Nornalup National Park, visitor facilities at Coalmine Beach, the Knolls and other sites, visitors' picnic facilities at the Valley of the Giants, the Valley of the Giants Road and Knoll Drive are all being upgraded.

Within the Walpole Wilderness Area, day-use facilities are being upgraded and visitor safety improvements are being made at Circular Pool, Hilltop and other sites. Beardmore Road is being resurfaced between the South West Highway and Fernhook Falls, visitor facilities are being upgraded and visitor safety improvements made at the Falls, and the Nuyts Wilderness trailhead to Mt Clare is to be relocated.

The department has employed a number of former timber industry workers who will be trained in a range of skills, including park facility development and fire management.



Top left: Collie River, adjacent to Lennard Drive.

Photo - Gordon Roberts

Above left: Wellington National Park. Lower Collie valley. Big Rock Day School group activities.

Left: An international school group at Honeymoon Pool canoe and camping area.

Photos - Leon Price

NEW PARK FACILITIES AND UPGRADES



WELLINGTON NATIONAL PARK

An additional 14,500 hectares are being added to reserves around Wellington Dam, bringing the total area of the park to more than 17,500 hectares. The capital works program includes new facilities, as well as upgrading several key roads to provide better and safer access to several spots along the Collie River.

A major project is the stabilisation of the eroded riverbank at Honeymoon Pool by erecting a retaining wall. New decking at the same site will provide safe access to the water for swimmers, canoeists and people with disabilities.

At the popular Wellington Dam, toilets are being upgraded. New facilities will be constructed and new equipment will be made available at the Wellington Discovery Forest EcoEducation Centre, to cater for the increasing numbers of school students and teachers participating in environmental EcoEducation activities. Just around the corner, the King Tree site is also receiving a much-needed revamp.

Major roadworks include upgrading River Road South and Lennard Drive to provide safer and better access to popular spots such as Honeymoon Pool, Longpool, Little Rock, Rapids, Big Rock and the dam wall. Safety upgrades are also planned for River Road North, Falcon Road and further sections of the Pile-Mungalup Road.

The capital works program is being carried

out by the department's own staff, through a partnership with the Shire of Dardanup, and in some cases through tenders for major constructions.

Further work to bring older sites up to standard is expected to begin in about mid-winter. Meanwhile, community consultation is well under way to prepare a management plan for the park.

Above left: Wellington Forest, adjacent to Wellington Dam.

Photo – Chris Garnett

Above: Car park and picnic area at Wellington Dam.

Below: Picnic and camping area at Wellington Forest.

Photos – Gordon Roberts



Winner of the Alex Harris Medal for excellence in science and environment reporting

LANDSCOPE



VOLUME SEVENTEEN, NUMBER 4, WINTER 2002



Native animals need tree hollows and people need wood. How are these conflicting uses managed? See page 20.

An exciting range of recreational opportunities are being offered in some national parks, creating employment for locals. See page 28.



Declining water levels threaten a remarkable community of cave-dwellers in Yanchep National Park. Turn to page 34.



The search to find out the cause of a new tree killer known as Mundulla Yellows. See page 41.



Re-discovering the long-forgotten memoirs of a Kimberley pioneer. See page 48.

FEATURES

- BENEATH THE BUSSELTON JETTY**
ANN STORRIE.....10
- FOREST HOLLOWES: WILDLIFE HOMES**
KIM WHITFORD.....20
- THE GUIDED EXPERIENCE: A NEW JOURNEY**
GIL FIELD.....28
- THREATENED WILDLIFE OF THE YANCHEP CAVES**
JOHN BLYTH, EDYTA JASINSKA, LYNDON MUTTER, VAL ENGLISH AND PAUL THOLEN.....34
- MUNDULLA YELLOWS**
DAGMAR HANOLD, MIKE STUKELY AND JOHN W RANDES....41
- UNDER A REGENT MOON**
TIM WILLING AND KEVIN KENNEALLY.....48

REGULARS

- BUSH TELEGRAPH**.....4
- ENDANGERED**
MT LINDESAY-LITTLE LINDESAY.....19
- URBAN ANTICS**
DALKEITH "POSSUMS"?.....54

Executive editor: Ron Kawalliak.
Editors: David Gough, Carolyn Thomson-Dans.
Story editor: Verna Costello.
Scientific/technical advice: Andrew Burbidge, Keith Morris, Kevin Kenneally, Paul Jones and staff of Science Division.
Design and production: Tiffany Aberin, Maria Duthie, Gooitzen van der Meer.
Illustration: Gooitzen van der Meer.

Cartography: Promaco Geodraft
Marketing: Estelle de San Miguel ☎ (08) 9334 0296 Fax: (08) 9334 0498.
Subscription enquiries: ☎ (08) 9334 0481 or (08) 9334 0437.
Colour separation by Colourbox Digital.
Printed in Western Australia by Lamb Print.

© ISSN 0815-4465. All material copyright. No part of the contents of the publication may be reproduced without the consent of the publishers

Please do not send unsolicited material to *LANDSCOPE*, but feel free to telephone the editors.

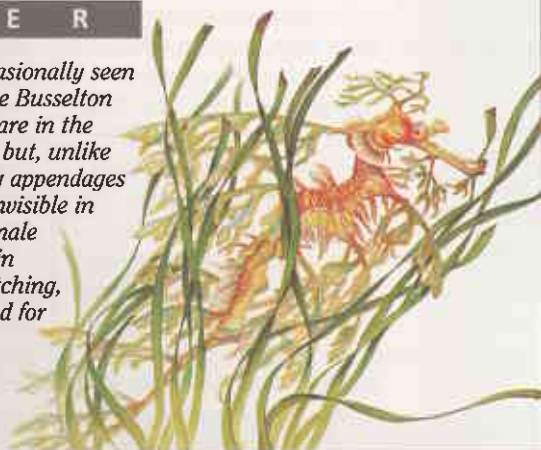
Visit NatureBase at www.naturebase.net

Published by the Department of Conservation and Land Management, Dick Perry Avenue, Kensington, Western Australia.

COVER

Leafy seadragons are occasionally seen in the seagrass around the Busselton Jetty (see page 10). They are in the same family as seahorses but, unlike seahorses, they have leafy appendages that make them almost invisible in their surroundings. The male carries the eggs in the skin beneath his tail. After hatching, the young swim off to fend for themselves.

Cover illustration by Philippa Nikulinksy



DEPARTMENT OF
Conservation
AND LAND MANAGEMENT
Conserving the nature of WA