



DEC campgrounds resource goes live

A WEBSITE listing the details of more than 110 camp sites throughout the state was recently launched by DEC's Parks and Visitor Services.

The *DEC Campgrounds* website currently includes links to purchase park passes, brochures and up-to-date weather forecasts. In the coming weeks the official launch of the website will see the introduction of an online booking system.

Parks and Visitor Services Assistant Director Rod Annear said it is anticipated the *DEC Campgrounds* website will be valuable for visitor centres and front counter staff when dealing with visitor enquiries about campgrounds across the state.

"An online booking system will be an integral part of the *DEC Campgrounds* website and this feature will be trialled in February. Trial booking sites include Lane Poole Reserve, Beelu National Park, Cape Range National Park and Purnululu National Park," he said.

Project Manager Glenn Willmott said that during the past few years, the demand at a number of DEC campgrounds had exceeded capacity.

"Various management strategies have been instigated at DEC campgrounds to manage visitor demands," he said.

"For example, in Cape Range National Park, campers start lining up at the entry gate early each morning in peak periods to secure a site.

As the park entry is 39 kilometres away, visitors leave Exmouth with uncertainty about whether they will obtain a site."

Proposed benefits of the new online system include:

- assistance in site protection by ensuring campgrounds are not overfilled and that impacts on sites are kept under control
- helping to meet the growing expectations of visitors to plan and book their travel itineraries in advance
- provision of accurate details for visitor trends and movements
- assisting in setting visitor expectations concerning the type of facilities available, activities they can undertake and attractions close to them
- reduction in time of campground hosts and park staff in handling cash payments, as booked sites would be paid for in advance through the online system.

You can explore *DEC Campgrounds* by visiting www.dec.wa.gov.au/campgrounds.

If there is a campground that you would like to add to the website please contact Glenn Willmott on 0419 044 712 or glenn.willmott@dec.wa.gov.au.

If you have any queries about the website, or wish to request brochures or posters, please contact Project Officer Stefanie McBurney on 9334 0220 or email stefanie.mcburney@dec.wa.gov.au.



Exmouth District DEC officers Matt Prophet and Amy Zeinert browse the DEC Campgrounds website.



DEC's natural wonders in the palm of your hand

DEC's Parks and Visitor Services (PVS) has released a series of six electronic national park guides available online and for download to smart phones, allowing visitors to plan and share their travel experiences on-the-go.

The partnership between PVS and *EveryTrail*—a global interactive website that hosts travel information and user experiences from more than 80 countries—enables users to view detailed maps, photos, descriptions and points of interest before visiting a national park. Similarly visitors can track their journey and add photos in real-time to share with friends and future visitors.

PVS Assistant Director Rod Annear said the partnership was a step in the right direction in accommodating the needs and expectations of the modern-day visitor.

"Today's park visitors seek information from a variety of sources and increasingly demand digital information to plan their visit and to refer to when they are on site," he said.

"*EveryTrail* guides meet those needs perfectly by linking written information, audio, video and maps and GPS data into one neat package that can be viewed at home or downloaded to your phone or smart device.

"As we add more DEC guides to the site, *EveryTrail* will become an important reference for the public, DEC staff and visitor centres. We hope this new digital format will increase and enrich visitor experiences and help make our parks more relevant and accessible to generations X, Y and Z."

Download free

DEC's first six guides are free to download to your smart phone.

- [Francois Peron National Park – Shark Bay World Heritage Area](#)
- [Kalbarri National Park](#)
- [Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park – Augusta and Boranup](#)
- [Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park – Yallingup surrounds](#)
- [Nambung National Park and the Pinnacles](#)
- [Purnululu National Park – World Heritage Area](#)

For more information about *EveryTrail* electronic guides view this [video demonstration](#). If you are interested in developing *EveryTrail* guides for your area, please contact Project Officer Stefanie McBurney on 9334 0220.

Carnaby's cockatoo documentary to take flight



Mother Maggie with her baby chick during filming of On a Wing and a Prayer.

A DOCUMENTARY following the life-cycle of the endangered Carnaby's cockatoo and the determination of DEC Senior Wildlife Investigator Rick Dawson to protect them is currently in post-production for ABC TV.

Sea Dog Films Company Director Leighton De Barros intensively followed one particular family of Carnaby's for six months of filming and hopes the resulting documentary—*On a Wing and a Prayer*—will generate awareness of the plight of one of Australia's most loved, but critically endangered birds.

"We wanted to tell people about the amazingly unique story of the Carnaby's struggle to survive. I wanted to capture their behaviour and showcase the special nature of these beautiful birds, which up until

now had never been captured on film," Leighton said.

"I also wanted to tell people about the incredible work that Rick Dawson is doing. So I wrote this great story and worked very hard to get it funded.

"I have dedicated every hour of every day over the past six months to achieving this, but it's all paying off and I think we are going to have a wonderful film.

"The documentary will be broadcast in prime time, Sunday evenings on ABC TV and it will be sold around the world by ABC Distribution—so we are hoping that millions of people around the world will see the film and discover more about Carnaby's cockatoo."

Leighton said his passion for the cockatoo developed while producing

another DEC-related and award winning documentary—*Whale Patrol*.

"I met Rick Dawson while making *Whale Patrol* which focused on the work of Doug Coughran and DEC's whale disentanglement team," he said.

"Rick spoke of his work with Carnaby's and invited me out on a couple of jobs to see first-hand what he did. I was hooked almost immediately on these magnificent birds and their amazing story.

"I thought it was a story that Australia and the world needed to know, so we got together with Screenwest, ABC TV and ABC Commercial to make it happen."

You can view previews and follow the latest developments of the *On a Wing and a Prayer* documentary by visiting www.wingandaprayer.com.au.



DEC releases updated dust guideline

A GUIDELINE for the development and implementation of a dust management program has recently been released by DEC incorporating contaminated sites issues and monitoring requirements.

Dust is an issue that is managed on an ongoing basis. Dust complaints are regularly received and investigated by DEC, as are proposals for various activities such as development and remediation of contaminated sites.

DEC identified the need to provide guidance on monitoring requirements for dust, and other air pollutants and contaminants such as heavy metals, asbestos and PAHs and other non-dust pollutants such as VOCs, that may be emitted during remediation works.

Prepared by the Air Quality Management Branch in consultation with the

Contaminated Sites Branch and other branches within the Environmental Regulation Division, the final guideline was released on 14 January 2011 following a draft guideline released for public comment in May 2008, and a report on the submissions and government response, released in May 2009.

Air Quality Management Branch Senior Environmental Officer Constance Dewan said the guideline applied to diffuse sources of dust such as land clearing, contaminated sites remediation works and mining and quarrying activities and not to point sources, or stack emissions. It also provides proponents and consultants with information on dust management and, more importantly, monitoring requirements for compliance purposes.

"This should speed up the approvals

process and reduce the workload for DEC officers as proponents and consultants are aware of what the issues and requirements are and what to include in the dust management and air quality management plans submitted to DEC for approval," Constance said.

Previous documents prepared by DEC and the Office of the Environmental Protection Authority provided guidance on the control of dust and smoke management from land development sites, but they were directed more at land clearing activities and did not consider contaminated dust issues.

The draft guideline, submissions report and the final guideline are all available on the DEC website at www.dec.wa.gov.au and follow the links Pollution Prevention>Air Quality>Air Quality Publications>Guidelines.



Queries relating to the dust guideline may be referred to Constance on 9333 7427 or email constance.dewan@dec.wa.gov.au.

Saltwater crocodile removed from Lake Kununurra

DEC staff recently trapped and relocated a 1.8 metre male saltwater crocodile from a dam wall inside Lake Argyle's crocodile control zone.

DEC Wildlife Officer Luke Bentley said the crocodile was first spotted in November last year but interference with the crocodile trap by members of the public may have delayed its capture.

"Upon receiving the report we immediately deployed a crocodile trap to the area. The trap was checked three times a week over this period with nine freshwater crocodiles being caught and released prior to the saltwater crocodile being caught," he said.

"We have had a number of incidents where members of the public had interfered with the crocodile trap by opening the gate and releasing crocodiles. We ask that if people do see a closed crocodile trap that they contact the DEC office in Kununurra and not attempt to release crocodiles from the trap."

The captured saltwater crocodile has been relocated to the Wyndham Crocodile Farm.

DEC is working with other organisations in an attempt to reduce the risk of saltwater crocodiles entering the crocodile control zone.

"We have worked closely with the Water Corporation over the past 12 months on the erection of a fence below the Kununurra Diversion Dam in an attempt to reduce the incidence of saltwater crocodiles entering Lake Kununurra," Luke said.

"I would also remind people that saltwater crocodiles are highly mobile animals that can move large distances both over land and in the water. This means that they may be able to enter the crocodile control zone undetected, and it is important that all members of the public remain vigilant and report any suspected sightings."

If you believe you have seen a saltwater crocodile or an aggressive freshwater crocodile in the crocodile control

zone, record the location and if possible take a photo, then report it immediately to the DEC office in Kununurra on 9168 4200.



DEC Operations Officer Bill Dempsey (left) and DEC Ranger Brendan Wallaby with the crocodile.



Leeuwin-Naturaliste Capes area draft management plan released for comment

THE Conservation Commission of Western Australia released the Leeuwin-Naturaliste Capes Area Parks and Reserves Draft Management Plan 2010 in December last year.

Conservation Commission Chair Mrs Patricia Barblett AM said the draft plan, once finalised, would replace the *Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park Management Plan 1989-99*.

"With more than two million visits a year, Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park is one of the most visited national parks in Western Australia. As well as having stunning landscapes, top surfing conditions and the 135-kilometre Cape to Cape Track, it has sites of archaeological and cultural significance and areas of high conservation value," Mrs Barblett said.

"The 35,000-hectare planning area contains some of WA's top natural and recreation assets and supports a variety of nature-based recreation and tourism activities.

"The area contains significant biodiversity values including significant caves, wetlands and areas of high flora species richness, and nationally important wetlands."

The planning area also incorporates a number of national parks and nature reserves along the Leeuwin-Naturaliste Ridge including Yelverton, Bramley, and Forest Grove national parks and conservation reserves on the Scott Coastal Plain not previously covered by a management plan, including Scott National Park and Gingilup Swamps Nature Reserve.

This region is experiencing rapid change and intensifying land uses on adjoining properties are impacting on park values. Management will focus on protecting key values and addressing cross-boundary issues such as feral animals, fire, weeds and recreation management.

DEC Planning Officer Sophie Bishop said there was a high level of community interest in the plan, with displays outside supermarkets at Margaret River, Augusta and Dunsborough very popular.

"More than 500 copies of the plan have been provided to stakeholders and at least another 520 have been downloaded from the website," Sophie said.

"In addition to more than 400 letters to stakeholders, presentations have been given to a wide range of stakeholder groups including local government, natural resource management groups, recreational users such as mountain bikers and horse riders, community groups and local bushfire brigades."

The draft management plan was prepared by DEC, in consultation with the Capes Parks Community Advisory Committee, on behalf of the Conservation Commission.

The public comment period will be open until 18 February 2011. Copies of the draft plan can be obtained from DEC's Kensington office, and DEC offices at Busselton and Bunbury, or by following the links on DEC's website www.dec.wa.gov.au. Members of the public should be advised that submissions can be made online, via email or by post.

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New chair appointed to the Waste Authority

ENVIRONMENT Minister Bill Marmion has announced that His Excellency Dr Ken Michael AC Governor of Western Australia had appointed environmental consultant Jim Malcolm as chair of the Waste Authority for a six-month period.

Mr Marmion said Mr Malcolm had extensive environmental experience and, as a former director of the Department of Environment and Conservation's Waste Management Division, had an insight into the challenges of waste management.

"Mr Malcolm played a significant role in setting up the WASTE2020 strategic waste management planning initiative," he said.

"This experience provides him with a clear understanding of the complexity of waste issues, the range of stakeholders and the need for a broad approach to improve Western Australia's record in waste reduction and resource recovery."

Mr Malcolm, who is the current chair of the Contaminated Sites Committee, has a Bachelor of Science and a Master of Arts in Economics.

The Minister said the new chair's science and economics qualifications would be a valuable contribution to the responsibilities of the Waste Authority, including developing, promoting and reviewing a waste strategy for the state and coordinating its implementation.

The Waste Authority is fully funded through the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Account. DEC provides executive, administrative and contract management support to the authority. DEC also coordinates project-specific activities on behalf of the authority.

For more information, please contact the Waste Authority Executive Officer at DEC on 6467 5325.



New chair of the Waste Authority, Mr Jim Malcolm.

