

Western Australia



Issue 3

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Talking Tourism with the Department of Conservation and Land Management

FOREST SCIENCE LIBRARY
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
AND LAND MANAGEMENT
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Attractions and facilities

CD-ROM SET FOR RELEASE

Wild About Western Australia is the title of a CD-ROM which will allow users to get a taste of the wonders of Western Australia's natural areas from the convenience of their own computer.

Wild About Western Australia features spectacular footage and still photography of CALM managed areas and provides information on the State's plants and animals, and nature-based activities. Users simply click on an area of interest to discover general information about its features and location plus contact details of CALM licensed tour operators that visit the area.

In addition to being a useful tool for the general public to plan their visits around the State, CALM will be using the CD-ROM at tourism industry and consumer promotions.

It is proposed to give tour operators the opportunity to expand their listing in future editions of the CD-ROM by taking advertising space.

You are invited to view the CD-ROM at WA Naturally, located at 47 Henry Street Fremantle.

Wild About Western Australia will be available for sale from March at the *WA Naturally* shop plus book stores and retail outlets throughout Australia and overseas.

Operators can also view the CD-ROM at CALM's Como offices by phoning Matt Sapsworth on (09) 334 0331.

WOODLAND ECOLOGY COURSE AT DRYANDRA

CALM's Narrogin District will be conducting its popular weekend *Dryandra Woodland Ecology Course* (DWEC) from 9 to 11 May 1997. Using the abundant natural and cultural features of Dryandra Woodland, 160km south-east of Perth, DWEC has attracted more than 140 participants in the eight courses run to date.

CALM staff will provide an insight into many of the fascinating aspects of wandoo woodlands.

Activities include animal trapping and spotlighting, radio tracking, exploring the woodland ecology, experiencing the Nyoongah and European culture of Dryandra Woodland, and learning about native animals such as the numbat, woylie, carpet python, malleefowl and phascogale that live in the woodland.

DWEC is ideal for people who have an interest in the natural and cultural environment, whatever their knowledge level. The course is ideal for tour operators who want to improve their knowledge of south-west plants and animals, which they can in turn pass onto their clients.

It will be held from Friday afternoon 9 May to Sunday afternoon 11 May. The cost of \$185 per person includes transport to and from Perth, accommodation and all meals.

For further information please call CALM's Narrogin District office on (098) 811 113.

IT'S SNAKES ALIVE AT BROOME

A new facility at Broome's CALM office provides people with the opportunity to view Kimberley wildlife at close - and safe - range. Visitors to the *Broome Snake House* can see a range of venomous and non-venomous snakes plus learn more about these fascinating creatures from CALM staff.

A self-guided walk trail of the grounds also allows visitors to learn about tropical plants, both exotic and native, and to view a breeding colony of the exquisite and endangered Gouldian finch.

The Broome Snake House is located at CALM's office in Herbert Street. One hour tours are conducted at 10am and 2pm. Group bookings are possible at other times. Fees are \$5 adults and \$2 children.

For further information and bookings please phone (091) 921 036.

NEW BOARDWALK FOR YALGORUP NATIONAL PARK

Visitors to Yalgorup National Park can now gain a better understanding of one of earth's earliest life forms with the opening of an interpretive facility at *Lake Clifton* which includes an information shelter, boardwalk and viewing platform.

Visitors can now view a part of the largest lake-bound microbiolite "reef" in the southern hemisphere. These ancient life forms, known as thrombolites, grow in water less salty than the sea and have a different internal structure than their better known counterparts, the stromatolites.

The facility is situated at the end of Mt John Rd, off the Old Coast Rd, 28km south of Mandurah. The best viewing time is from December to March.

For further information contact Steve Dutton on (097) 391 067.

TREE TOP WALK AT THE VALLEY OF THE GIANTS

Over 80,000 visitors have visited the *Valley of the Giants* near Walpole since the opening of the spectacular *Tree Top Walk* in August 1996, earning close to \$270,000 in revenue for the management and maintenance of the site. Up to eight staff are on site at any one time to ensure that visitors gain maximum appreciation of this popular attraction.

Around 2,000 visitors a day are expected during summer, and tour operators are advised to visit the site in the early morning or late afternoon to avoid the crowds. The site is open from 8am to 5.15pm. Advance bookings are recommended.

In the event that the walk is closed due to high winds, for visitor safety and comfort reasons, operators will be contacted and assistance will be given to provide alternative activities.

For bookings or enquiries please call (098) 408 263.

WELLINGTON DISCOVERY FOREST

A new activity centre is being added to the growing list of CALM's environmentally-based attractions. The *Wellington Discovery Forest* is being established in the Ferguson Valley near the Wellington Mill Forest Cottages, about 20km east of Bunbury.

The Discovery Centre building should be constructed by the end of February 1997 and will house interpretive displays, a meeting room and an undercover area for group activities.

A series of self-guided walk trails will radiate into the forest from the Discovery Centre. The first of these, the *Jarrah Trail*, has been completed and provides an insight into the ecology of the jarrah forest.

For further information please phone Peter Henderson on (097) 25 4300.

PROVIDING FOR THE DISABLED

About one in six people in the community have some form of disability and CALM aims to ensure these individuals are able to access facilities and services enjoyed by the rest of the community. Many sites throughout the State now feature facilities and services suitable for people with disabilities.

CALM maintains a register of sites suitable for visitors with disabilities. These include walk trails for the visually impaired, boardwalks and trails which are wheelchair accessible, wheelchair accessible toilets and showers, specially designed camping facilities, and amphitheatres suitable for wheelchairs.

For further information on sites which are suitable for disabled visitors please call Wayne Schmidt on (09) 334 0575.

In short

FOREST HERITAGE CENTRE

The activities available at the *Forest Heritage Centre* near Dwellingup have expanded with the recent opening of a biodiversity trail, which features a traditional mia mia constructed by a local Aboriginal elder plus interpretive signs and displays.

The Forest Heritage Centre is an ideal visiting point for tours en route to other Peel or south-west destinations, and special wood-working demonstrations and guided tours can be arranged for groups.

For further information please phone Tony Lynn on (09) 538 1352.

PERUP WILDERNESS LODGE

The recent call for expressions of interest by tour operators to be accredited users of the newly-established *Perup Wilderness Lodge* attracted a good response.

Selected operators will now undergo training in the environmentally conscious design aspects of the lodge and the natural attractions of the area, including spotlighting for nocturnal animals. Other operators are welcome to book the lodge when it is not being used by accredited operators. For a fee, CALM staff may be available to casual users to provide interpretive activities.

For further information please contact Tim Foley or Anne Lillie on (097) 717 988.

GEIKIE GORGE BOAT TOUR

Rising operational costs have forced the adult fare for the Geikie Gorge boat tour to increase to \$18, but the cost for children remains unchanged at \$2.

While the increase is regretted, we believe the boat tour provides great value for money and compares favourably with other boat tours across northern Australia.

TAP INTO CALM'S EXPERTISE

Tour operators using CALM staff as tour guides and presenters have been rewarded with great feedback from clients.

Most of CALM's regional offices have staff who can join a coach to provide commentary, or give a presentation on features of the local area, subject to other commitments. Our Perth-based Aboriginal Tourism and Training Unit also has Aboriginal staff on hand to give enlightening talks on their culture. There is a charge for staff services.

For further information or contact details please call Gil Field on (09) 334 0580.

WA NATURALLY

CALM's *WA Naturally* shop is open every day except Tuesday from 10am to 5.30pm and has everything you need to know about WA's natural areas. On the third Sunday of every month there is a live animal display, and at other times there are demonstrations of wood turning plus visiting displays. Visitors can also surf CALM's home page and view CALM's CD-ROM, *Wild About Western Australia*.

For details of what's on at *WA Naturally* please call (09) 430 8600.

PENGUIN ISLAND AN IDEAL SUMMER STOP

Penguin Island and the *Shoalwater Islands Marine Park* near Rockingham are ideal summer day trip destinations. Close up viewing of penguins, marine wildlife, seabirds and spectacular island and coastal scenery is guaranteed.

Penguin Island provides opportunities for snorkelling, fishing or just relaxing on the pristine beaches.

Bookings can be made with Rockingham Sea Tours on (09) 528 2004 or fax (09) 592 2826.

YANCHEP TWINS

It is a great time to visit *Yanchep National Park*; *Euca* and *Lyptus*, the first ever pair of koalas to survive infancy in WA are proving to be a major drawcard. McNess House, housing an information centre and the Yanchep Rose Arts and Crafts Group, is now open to the public. For the first time in 10 years, Yonderup Cave has been re-opened for guided interpretive tours and caving activities.

For further information call the park on (09) 561 1004.

F.O.C. POLICY

CALM welcomes the opportunity of hosting journalists and travel industry personnel at its parks as part of tour groups and extends free of charge entry for legitimate industry and media representatives. We do, however, seek the support of the tourism industry, by providing notice of any FOC passengers to the park in question no less than 48 hours prior to the date of the visit. Your cooperation is appreciated.

Hot off the Press

WALKS AROUND ALBANY

A new pocket-sized book features 12 popular coastal walks in or near Albany. *Coastal Walks Around Albany* details many of the area's best coastal walks, ranging from easy strolls such as the Stony Hill Heritage Trail at Torndirrup National Park to more challenging walks like Bald Head, also at Torndirrup, and the Shelly Beach to Cape walk at West Cape Howe National Park. There is a map, details on location, length, difficulty and facilities and an easy-to-follow description for each walk.

The book is available for \$4.50 from CALM's Albany office, the Albany Tourist Bureau, the Residency Museum in Albany, and CALM's *WA Naturally* shop in Fremantle. For copies or further information phone (098) 424 500.

CAPE NATURALISTE WALK TRAILS

A guide to walk trails in the Cape Naturaliste area has been released. The guide is available from CALM offices, tourist information centres in the area and selected accommodation outlets for \$1. For further information please phone Neil Taylor on (097) 52 1677.

Let's go surfing

CALM's web site on the Internet is constantly being updated and each month we feature a different national park plus the latest news about CALM publications, nature-based tourism and all CALM attractions. There are sights and sounds, movies and virtual tours. Our home page address is

<http://www.calm.wa.gov.au>.

If you don't have access to the Internet you can 'surf' CALM's web pages at the *WA Naturally Shop*, 47 Henry Street, Fremantle.

The quality of CALM's web site was recognised with the recent awarding of the *Best Government Site* at the inaugural *Telstra/Financial Review Australian Internet Awards*.

Around the Regions

NEW WALK TRAIL IN LESUEUR NATIONAL PARK

A new 1.5km walk trail constructed across a ridge to the north of Mt Lesueur offers spectacular panoramic views. The high number of wildflowers provides a dynamic procession of colour from August to November and the majestic wedge-tailed eagle is frequently spotted in the area.

The Wheatbelt Aboriginal Corporation built the trail, with funding from the Australian Nature Conservation Agency (ANCA), in a previously inaccessible area, and the trail will allow more people to enjoy this magnificent national park. The new trail is ideal for bush walking, particularly for groups interested in wildflowers. An enthusiastic response from the public to walks conducted by CALM rangers in spring 1996 suggests that there is a commercial opportunity for tour operators catering for this market.

For further information please phone Keith Hockey on (096) 527 043.

NAMBUNG NATIONAL PARK ROADWORKS

The ongoing road improvement program continues on the Pinnacles access road in Nambung National Park. The section north of Hangover Bay has been bituminised which means 11km of the 17km journey is now under 'black top'. This section will have a final coat of bitumen and coarser blue metal in about 12 months to consolidate the surface.

The resheeting of the gravel surface from Hangover Bay to the Pinnacles - a distance of 6km - will proceed as machinery becomes available. It is planned to improve the Hangover Bay and Kangaroo Point access tracks and the car parks at these coastal sites.

The much improved road surface will mean less wear and tear on tour vehicles which will decrease travel times considerably and allow operators to spend more time at the major feature of the park or to diversify their tours to take in other attractions.

For further information please phone Keith Hockey on (096) 527 043.

SOUTH WEST

Hoffman Mill

Hoffman Mill is a popular camping and picnic area on the banks of the Harvey River, 20km north-east of Harvey. Sites are set among towering Sydney blue gums, planted when the town and mill closed in the early 1960s.

The site is being redeveloped to include new toilet blocks, a reticulated water supply, gas barbecues in the picnic area, and restored historic bridges. The buildings and layout of campsites will be in keeping with the historic mill town theme.

The redevelopment of the camping area will be completed by the end of May 1997, however, work on the whole area will continue for several years. Camping fees will be introduced prior to summer 1997/98.

For further information please contact Peter Henderson on (097) 25 4300.

Wright's Bridge

The final stages of the campsite and picnic area developments at **Wright's Bridge** on the banks of the Blackwood River on the Nannup-Balingup Road will be completed this summer. Works include coach and caravan parking, an information shelter, and stabilising the river bank to permit easy access for swimmers and canoeists.

For further information please contact Peter Henderson on (097) 25 4300.

PILBARA

Karijini National Park

The temporary visitor centre at Karijini National Park is closed but will reopen in mid-April 1997. The site of the permanent visitor centre has been selected and the detailed design of the building is underway.

Access to Karijini is being improved with the construction of a new bitumen road that traverses the park from the Great Northern Highway to Tom Price. The eastern half of the road has been sealed and the remaining section should be completed by the end of 1997.

Touring Western Australia is a quarterly tourism industry publication of the Park, Policy and Tourism Branch of the Western Australian Department of Conservation and Land Management. We welcome feedback from our readers and topic suggestions for further editions.

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